

CREATED BY **JOSS WHEDON**

JORDIE BELLAIRE

JEREMY LAMBERT

RAMON BACHS

ANDRÉS GENOLET

Buffy

the vampire slayer™



DAVID
LOPEZ

VOLUME FIVE **THE BIGGEST BAD**

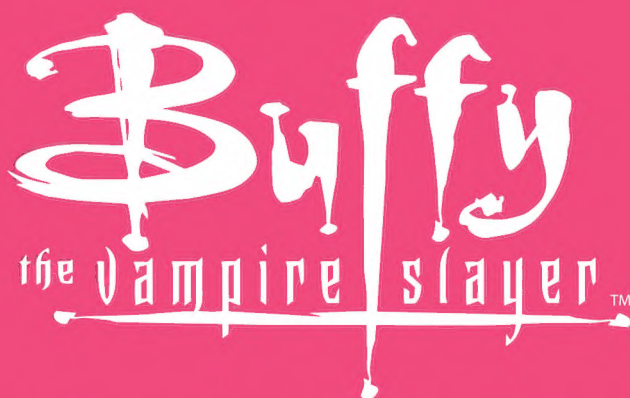
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CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Issue Seventeen Cover by **David López**



DAVID
LOPEZ



THE WORLD
BURNS.



SO FEW OF US ARE
LEFT. OUR WAY OF
LIFE IS DYING.



WE MAY KNOW
NO VICTORY.

CRACK

AND STILL...WE
STAND DEFIANT.

YOU
SHOULD HAVE
LISTENED TO US,
WESLARION.

WE WOULD
HAVE SPARED
YOUR LIFE HAD
YOU BUT PLAYED
BY THE RULES
OF THE
VARGUHL.

I LISTEN
TO NONE BUT
THE **EIGHT POETS
OF OALD**. THE
HEARTSPEAKERS,
SOOTHSAYERS, AND
THEIR EVERGREEN
WISDOM OF THE
AGES.

BESIDES,
YOU SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
LONG BEFORE
NOW...



AND THUS, THE
MELEE ENSUED--



UNTIL I POOPED MY
LEATHER BREECHES!
=GASP!= AND HAD TO
STOP THE FIGHT TO
TAKE CARE OF
SOMETHING A LITTLE
BIT MORE SERIOUS.





THIS WHOLE
SHARED DOCUMENT
THING IS
HILARIOUS.

"I play by my own rules," Weslarion said. And thus the melee ensued UNTIL I POOPED MY LEATHER BREECHES (GASP!) AND HAD TO STOP THE FIGHT TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING A WEE BIT MORE SERIOUS. "WHOOPSIE-DAISY, HOLD ON, CHAPS!"

ETHAN. WHY AM I
FOREVER THE FOCUS
OF YOUR BOREDOM?
I WASN'T EVEN AWARE
GHOSTS COULD
TYPE.

LISTEN, MATE, WE
CAN HAUNT ANYTHING--
A DOCUMENT IS A
BREEZE COMPARED TO
INTERDIMENSIONAL
TRAVEL, I'LL SAY THAT
MUCH. WHAT
A THRILL.

HERE
FOR ANOTHER
REASON, THOUGH. **THE
COUNCIL'S EMERGENCY
MEETING WAS BROUGHT
FORWARD AN HOUR.
YOU MUST'VE MISSED IT
ON ACCOUNT OF
FANTASIZING.**

YOU'RE
LATE,
WESLEY.

I'M
WHAT?!



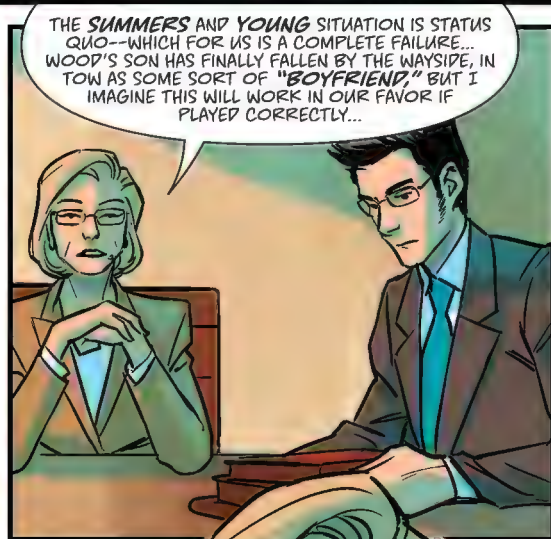


...AND FOR THE **WATCHER**, THERE IS NO GREATER CRIME. I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY. MY SINCERE APOLOGIES TO THE COUNCIL.

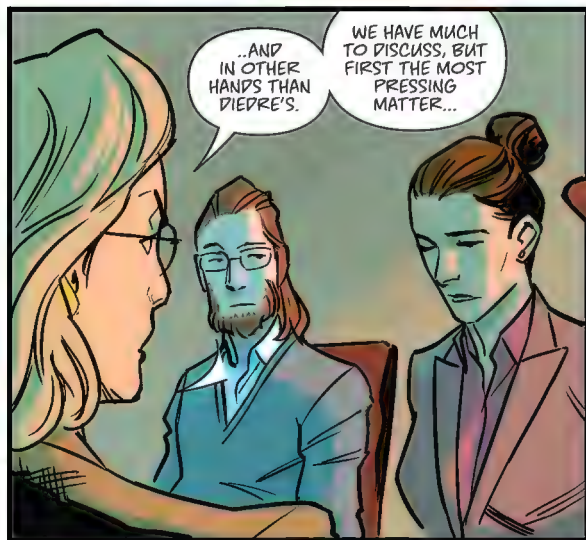


I BELIEVE THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEEN LATE TO ANYTHING.

THANK YOU, WESLEY. AS I WAS SAYING, THE STATE OF PLAY--



THE **SUMMERS** AND **YOUNG** SITUATION IS STATUS QUO--WHICH FOR US IS A COMPLETE FAILURE... **WOOD'S** SON HAS FINALLY FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE, IN TOW AS SOME SORT OF "**BOYFRIEND**," BUT I IMAGINE THIS WILL WORK IN OUR FAVOR IF PLAYED CORRECTLY...



...AND IN OTHER HANDS THAN **DIEBRE'S**.

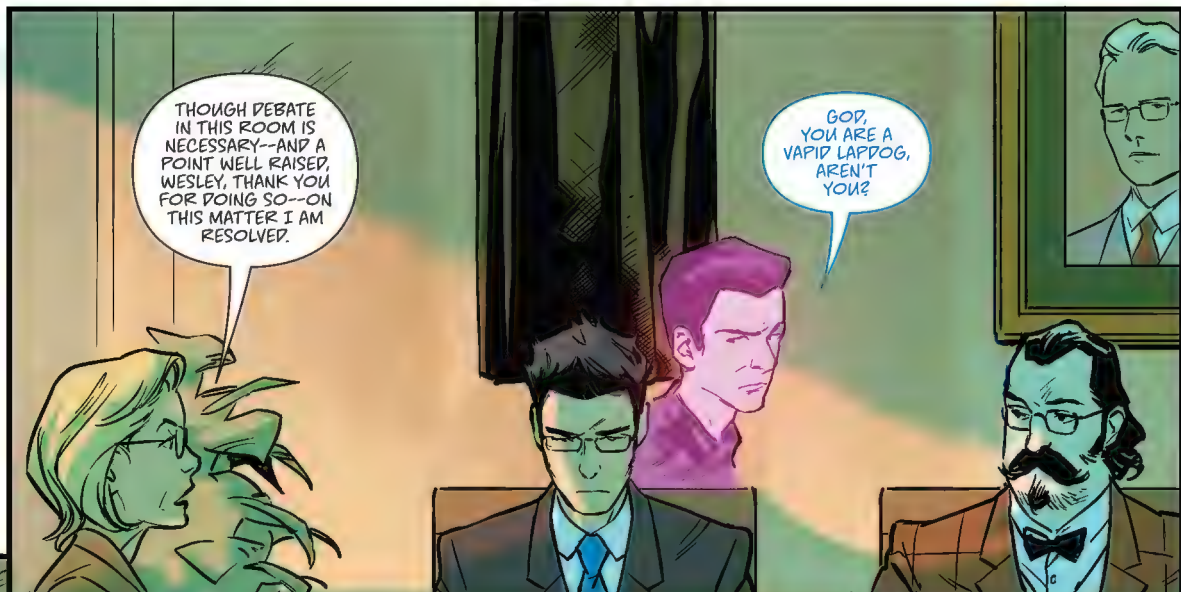
WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS, BUT FIRST THE MOST PRESSING MATTER...



...WE LOST ANOTHER OF OUR OWN LAST NIGHT.







THOUGH DEBATE
IN THIS ROOM IS
NECESSARY--AND A
POINT WELL RAISED,
WESLEY, THANK YOU
FOR DOING SO--ON
THIS MATTER I AM
RESOLVED.

GOD,
YOU ARE A
VAPID LAPDOG,
AREN'T
YOU?

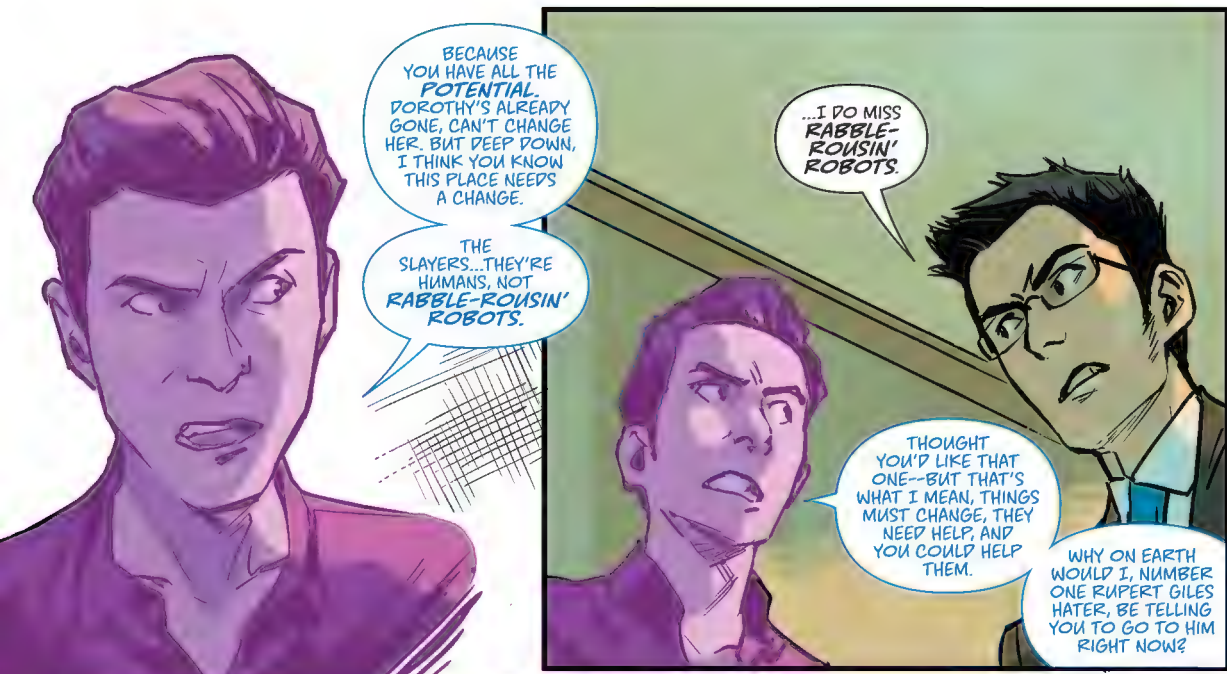


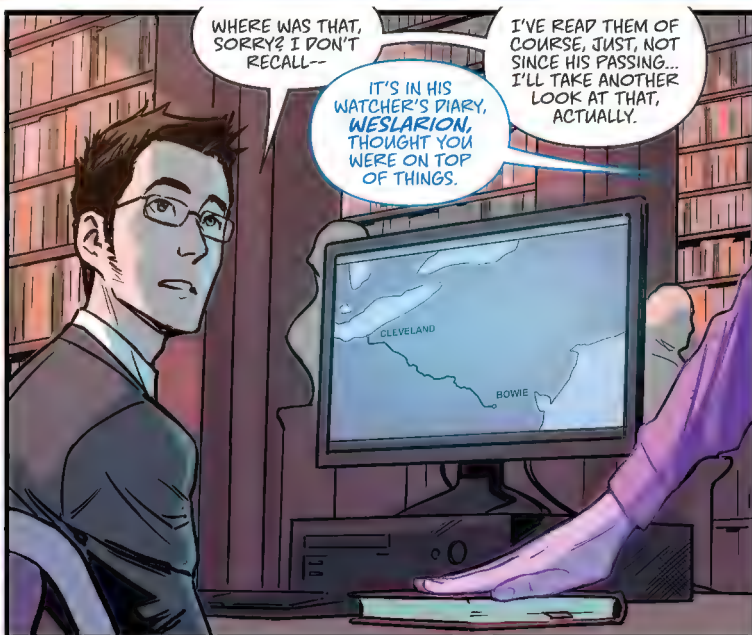
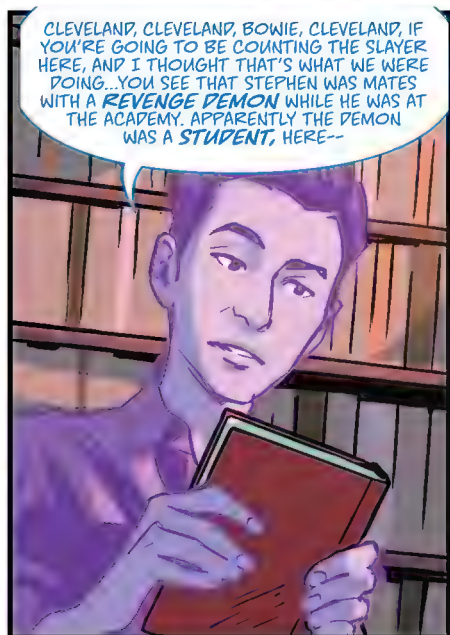
ARE WE GOING
HOME SO YOU CAN
DAYDREAM A BIT
MORE? MAYBE
FINALLY **PLAY BY
YOUR OWN
RULES?**

ETHAN, I'M
SORRY YOU NEVER
BECAME A WATCHER. I'M
SORRY YOU DIED YOUNG.
I'M SORRY THAT YOU
THINK RUPERT GILES HAD
SOMETHING TO DO WITH
IT, WHICH I **STILL** FIND
HIGHLY UNLIKELY.



TRULY, I AM
SORRY FOR ALL THESE
THINGS, BUT WHY IS IT
THAT YOU ONLY APPEAR
TO **ME?** WHY NOT THE
OTHERS? WHY NOT
DOROTHY, SHE HAS
ALL THE POWER--



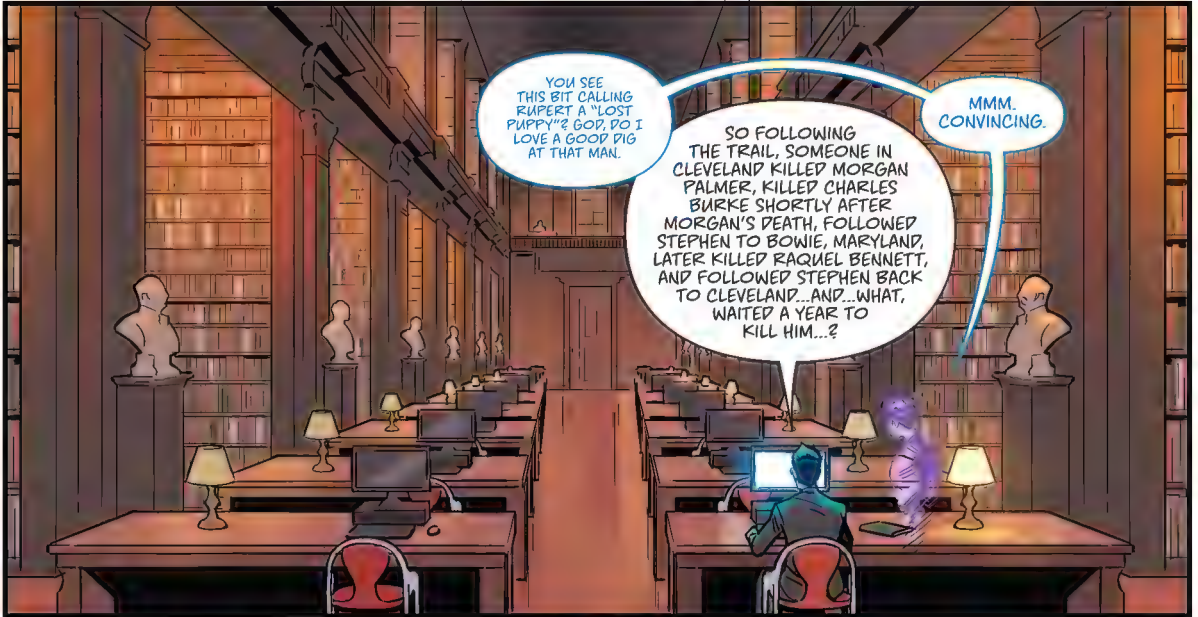




SEEMS TO BE
THAT **STEPHEN**
TRAVELED TO
BOWIE.

WHAT,
TO VISIT
RAQUEL?

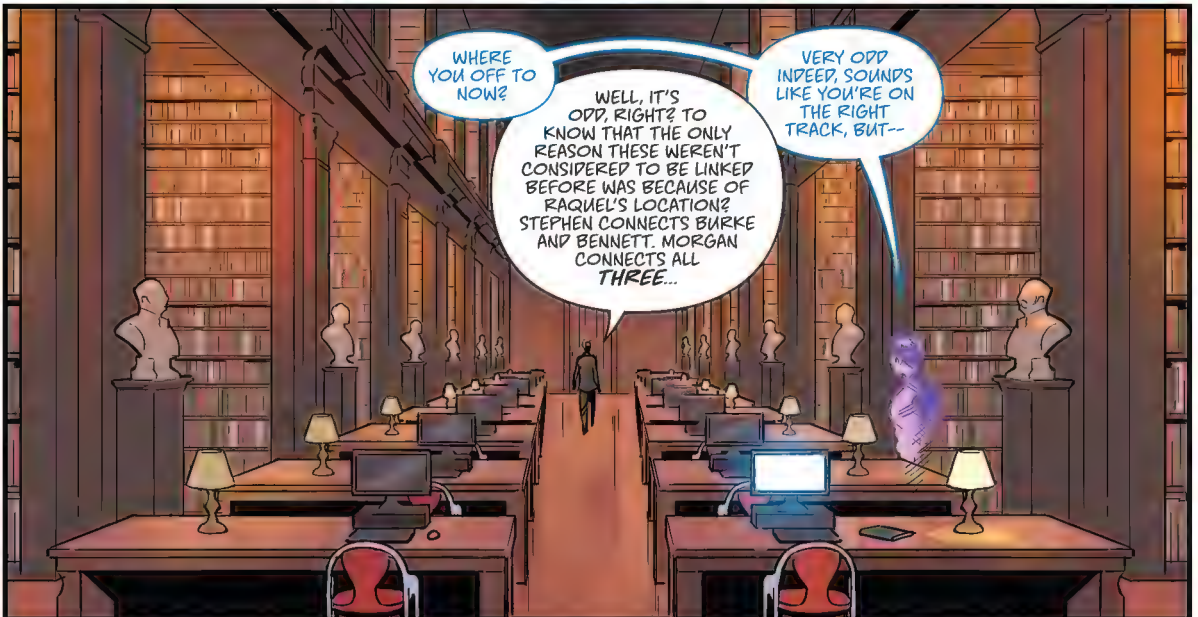
ONE WOULD
ASSUME. AND THIS
IS ALL **AFTER**
MORGAN'S
DEATH...



YOU SEE
THIS BIT CALLING
RUPERT A "LOST
PUPPY"? GOD, DO I
LOVE A GOOD PIG
AT THAT MAN.

SO FOLLOWING
THE TRAIL, SOMEONE IN
CLEVELAND KILLED MORGAN
PALMER, KILLED CHARLES
BURKE SHORTLY AFTER
MORGAN'S DEATH, FOLLOWED
STEPHEN TO BOWIE, MARYLAND,
LATER KILLED RAQUEL BENNETT,
AND FOLLOWED STEPHEN BACK
TO CLEVELAND... AND... WHAT,
WAITED A YEAR TO
KILL HIM...?

MMM.
CONVINCING.



WHERE
YOU OFF TO
NOW?

WELL, IT'S
ODD, RIGHT? TO
KNOW THAT THE ONLY
REASON THESE WEREN'T
CONSIDERED TO BE LINKED
BEFORE WAS BECAUSE OF
RAQUEL'S LOCATION? **STEPHEN** CONNECTS BURKE
AND BENNETT. MORGAN
CONNECTS ALL
THREE...

VERY ODD
INDEED, SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'RE ON
THE RIGHT
TRACK, BUT--



--DO WE
REALLY NEED THIS
FELLA? I THINK WE MAY
HAVE ENOUGH TO POSIT
THAT THIS IS BY NO MEANS
AN ISOLATED INCIDENT OR
THAT IT STOPS HERE...
THAT GILES, WOOD, AND
THE OTHERS ARE ALL IN
SIGNIFICANT DANGER
AND SHOULD BE
WARNED, NO?

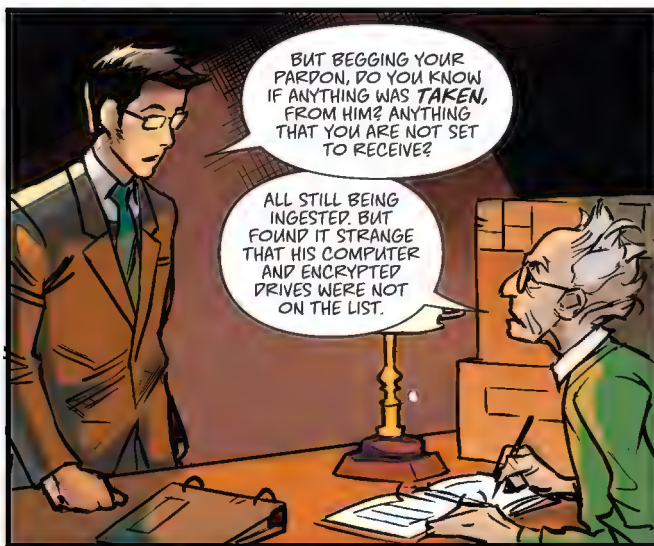
AH, LIBRARIAN
EDMUNDS, GLAD
YOU'RE STILL HERE,
PROBABLY BUSY WITH
THE FILES FROM
CLEVELAND STILL
COMING IN, EHH?



MR. WESLEY
WYNDAM-PRYCE.
AGAIN.

I KNOW
THE SITUATION
IS VERY MUCH
ONGOING--

THAT IT
IS--



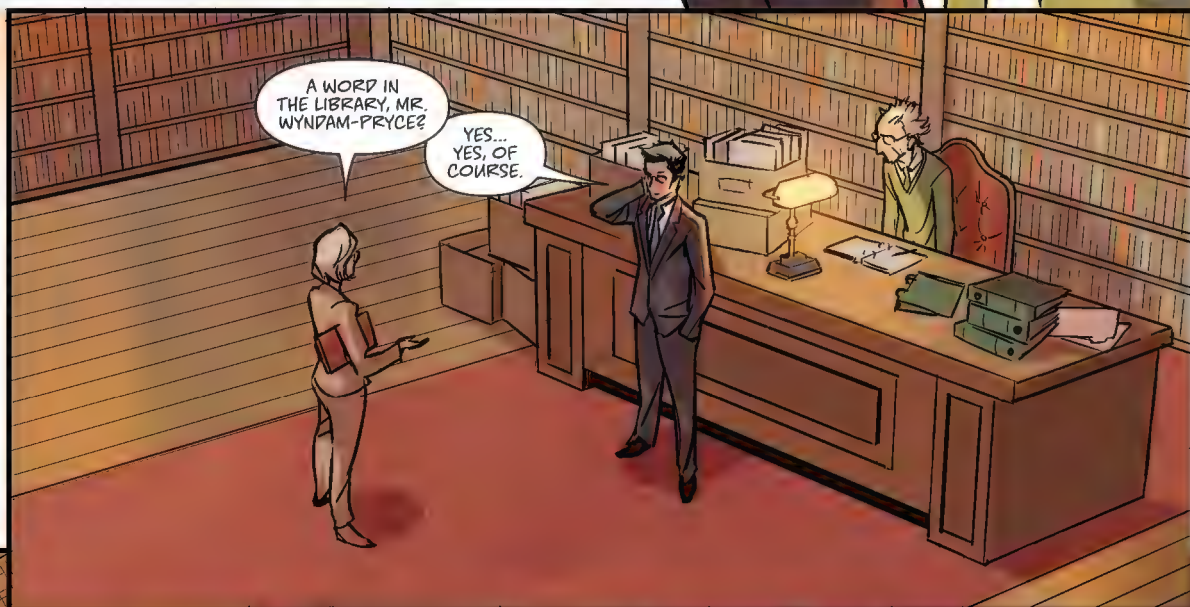
BUT BEGGING YOUR
PARDON, DO YOU KNOW
IF ANYTHING WAS **TAKEN**,
FROM HIM? ANYTHING
THAT YOU ARE NOT SET
TO RECEIVE?

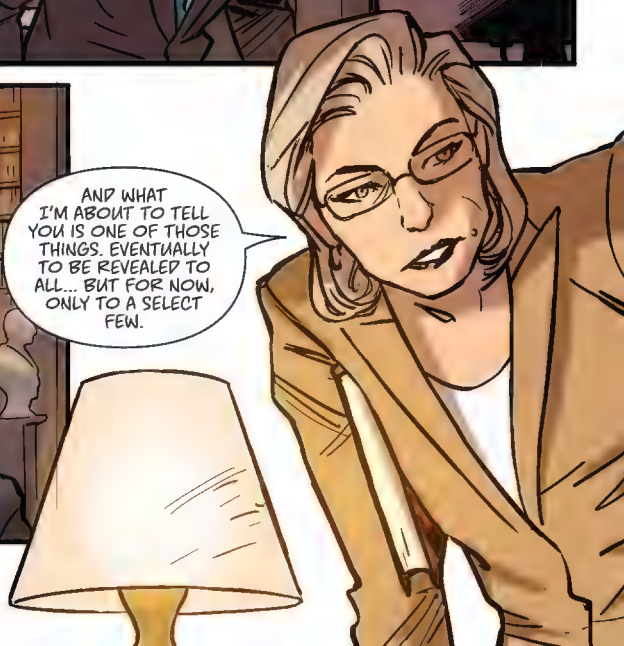
ALL STILL BEING
INGESTED, BUT
FOUND IT STRANGE
THAT HIS COMPUTER
AND ENCRYPTED
DRIVES WERE NOT
ON THE LIST.

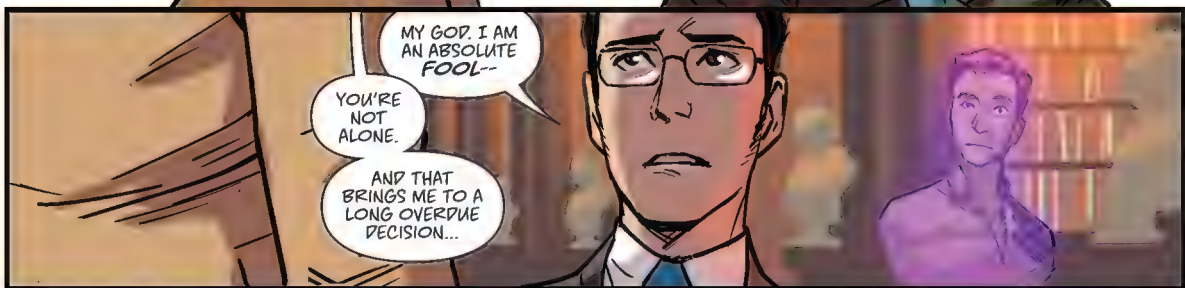
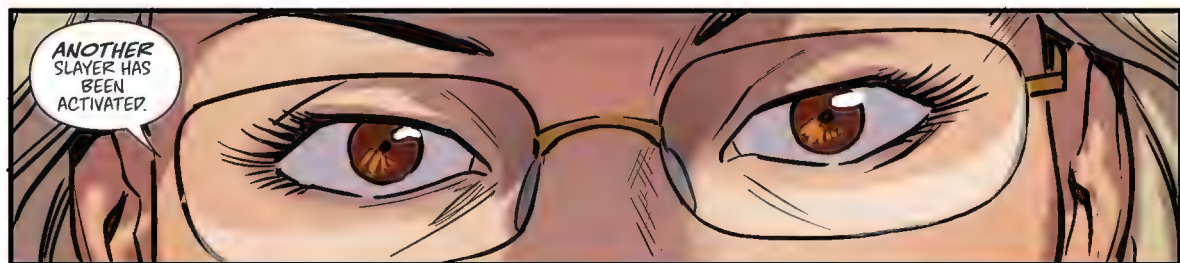


THAT SEEMS
LIKE IT WOULD
BE OUT OF
ORDINARY
PRACTI--

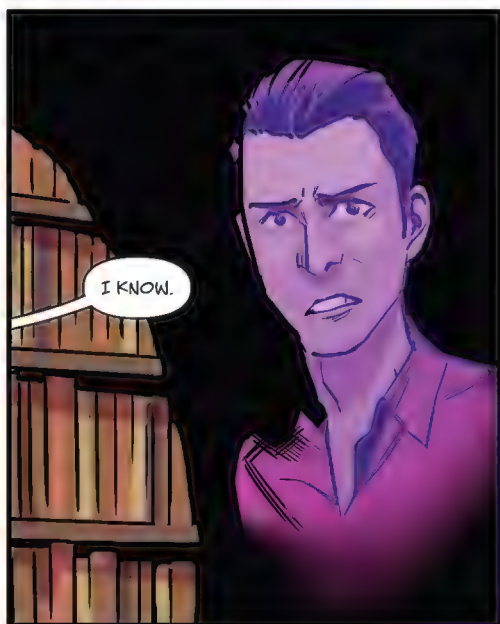
BURNING THE
MIDNIGHT OIL,
WESLEY?













YOU CANNOT GO! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE COUNCIL WANTS!

FOR YOU TO TOE THE LINE, AND FOR THEM TO HAVE ANOTHER COMPANY MAN IN THE FIELD. GOD YOU ARE SO AWFULLY LIKE RUPERT.

WHY DO YOU THINK SHE PICKED YOU? YOU ACCEPTED WITHOUT A MOMENT'S THOUGHT--



I DID NOT ACCEPT IT WITHOUT THINKING IT THROUGH--

RIGHT, THEN, WHAT'S HER NAME? THE SLAYER?

I DON'T--

WHERE'S SHE LIVE?



THAT'S NOT THE POINT! BESIDES, SHE SAID THOSE THINGS WILL BE REVEALED IN A BRIEFING TOMORROW. THE POINT IS I HAVE THOUGHT IT THROUGH. OVER AND OVER AGAIN, GETTING THE CALL.

THIS IS THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY. THE ULTIMATE CHANCE TO REALLY, TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



FOR THEM! TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THEM. WHAT OF BEING AN AGENT FOR CHANGE? CAUSING THE CHANGE FROM WITHIN THE COUNCIL?

YOU KNOW WHAT, FINE. FINE, WE'LL GO, AND WE'LL FIND A WAY TO BRING ABOUT THE CHANGE WE NEED TO. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR.



YOU ARE NOT COMING.

TRY AND STOP ME, WESLARION.



WHERE
WERE WE?

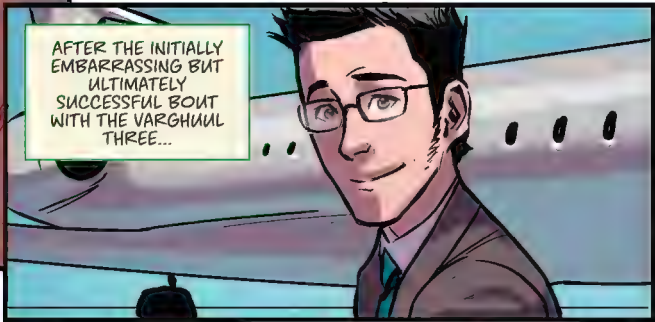


AH, YES.

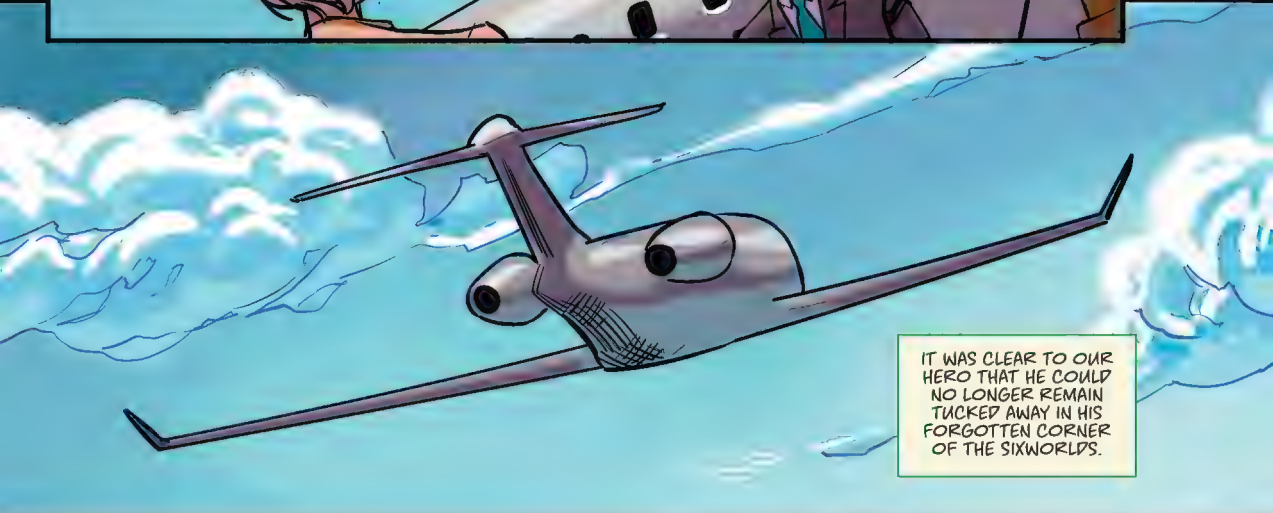
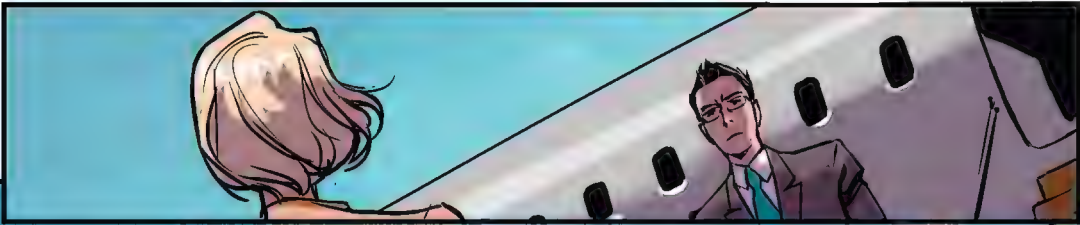


A PARTING GIFT.
BARTHOLOMEA'S
STAKE, FROM
THE ARCHIVES.

IT'S TIME I HAD SOME
RELIABILITY IN THE FIELD,
WESLEY. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SERVICE.



AFTER THE INITIALLY
EMBARRASSING BUT
ULTIMATELY
SUCCESSFUL BOUT
WITH THE VARGHUL
THREE...



IT WAS CLEAR TO OUR
HERO THAT HE COULD
NO LONGER REMAIN
TUCKED AWAY IN HIS
FORGOTTEN CORNER
OF THE SIXWORLDS.



AND THUS IT
BEGAN, THE GREAT
DEPARTURE OF
WESLARIUM FROM
THE ONLY PLACE HE
EVER CALLED
HOME...OFF IN
SEARCH OF--

--THE HABS
HAVE JUST WIPED
THE FLOOR WITH
THEM TONIGHT, KEVIN.
IT'S TOUGH TO
WATCH--



APOLOGIES
IF I OFFENDED! IT
JUST...IT IS ONLY A
GAME THOUGH,
RIGHT?

THIS IS BEYOND
EMBARRASSING.

IT
WASN'T LIKE A...A
CHAMPIONSHIP OR
ANYTHING?

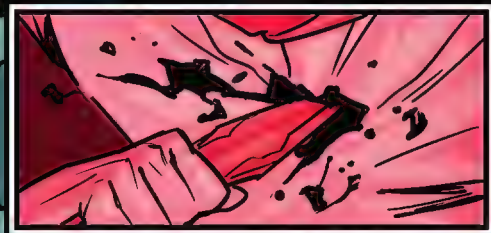
WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS?



YOU
WESLEY?

INDEED.

THE COUNCIL
HAS YOU TAKING ME
TO THE SAFEHOUSE,
THOUGH, WOULD
IT BE POSSIBLE
TO--



BUFFY
the
VAMPIRE
SLAYER

ECCE SIGNUM

Death is Everywhere



Death is Everywhere

UNDIQUE MORS EST

PULVIS
ET UMBRA
SUMUS

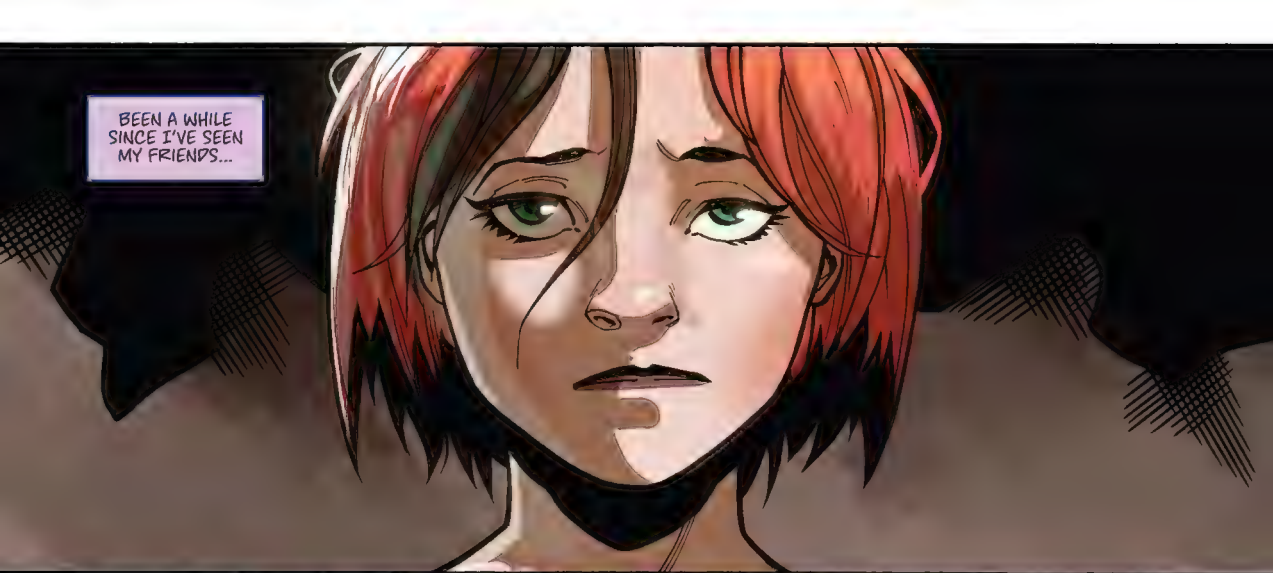
CONSUMMATUM EST

CHAPTER

EIGHTEEN

Issue Eighteen Cover by David López





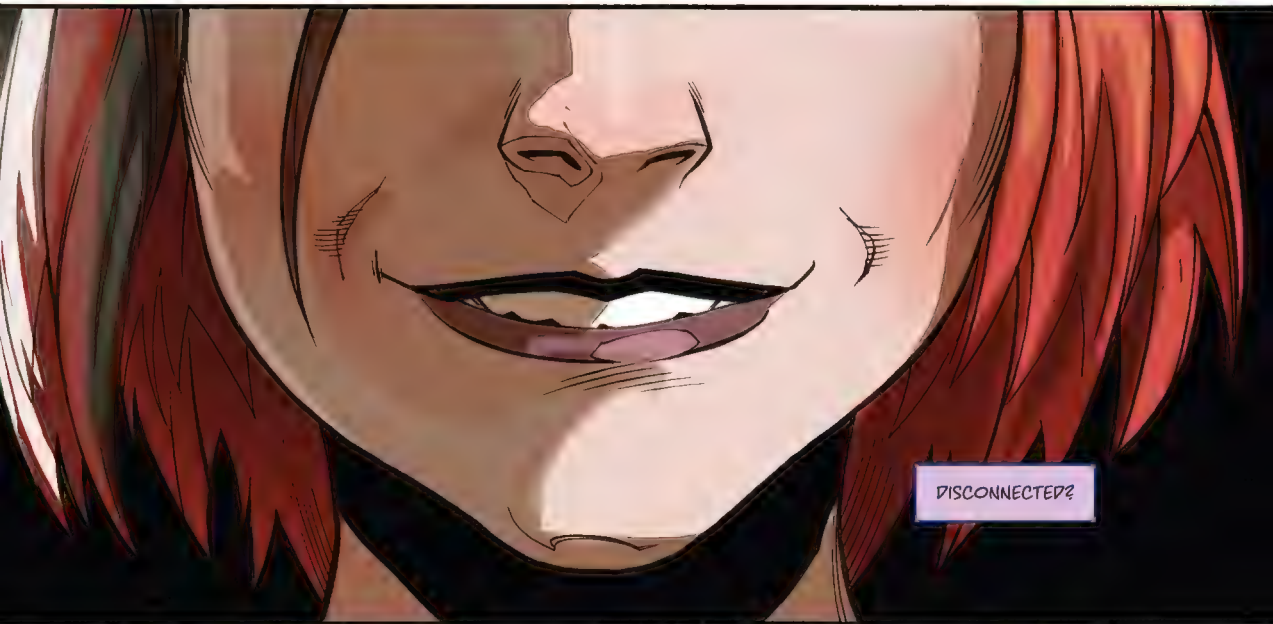
BEEN A WHILE
SINCE I'VE SEEN
MY FRIENDS...



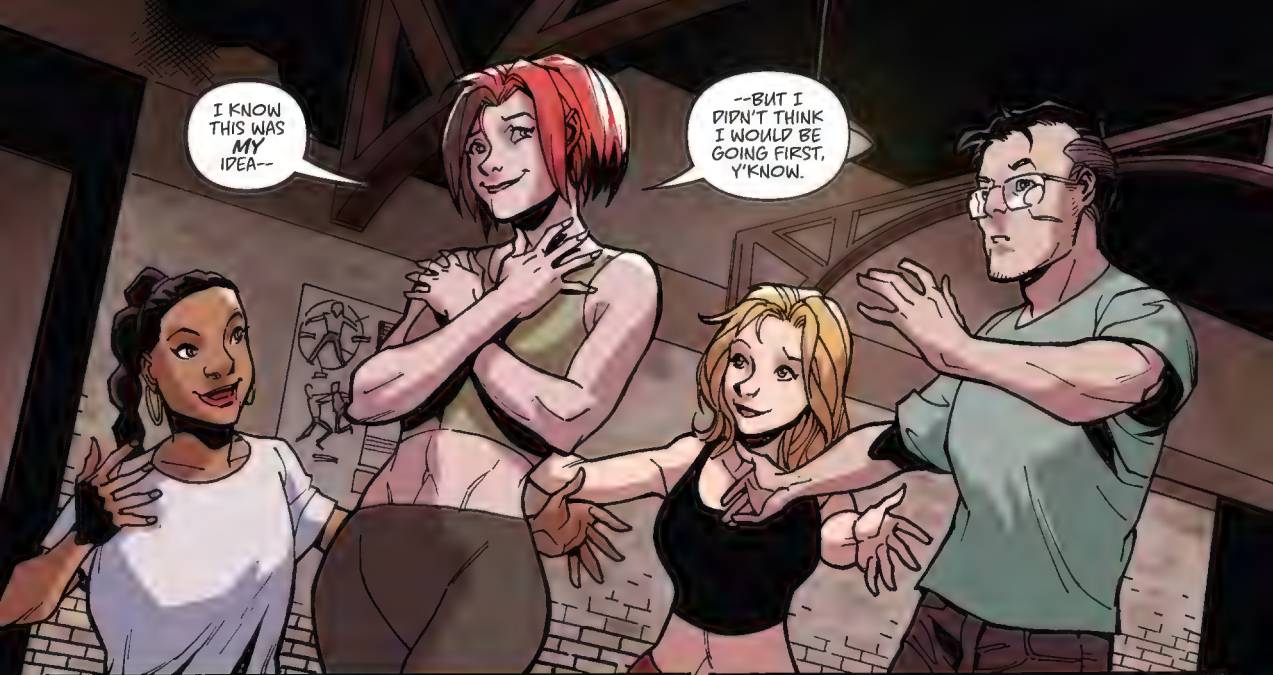
...WHY DOES IT
ALL FEEL LIKE
A DREAM?



IS IT MY FAULT
EVERYTHING
FEELS SO...



DISCONNECTED?



I KNOW THIS WAS MY IDEA--

--BUT I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD BE GOING FIRST, Y'KNOW.



IT'S ONLY JUST DAWNED ON ME THAT I TOO...AM MEANT TO CLOSE MY EYES AND FALL BACKWARDS INTO ALL OF YOUR ARMS, WHEN IT'S MY TURN?

YES!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, DO YOU NOT TRUST US, GILES?



OH MY, PERHAPS INSTEAD A SIMPLE **GROUP HUG** WOULD SUFFICE TO END OUR FIRST TRAINING AS A GROUP AGAIN...



AHA! NOT ME! I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THIS "BEEF" TO "SQUASH."

WHY DOES IT SOUND GROSS WHEN YOU SAY IT?

YEAH, YOU ALWAYS HAVE A WAY OF MAKING IT WEIRD.

I MISSED THAT.



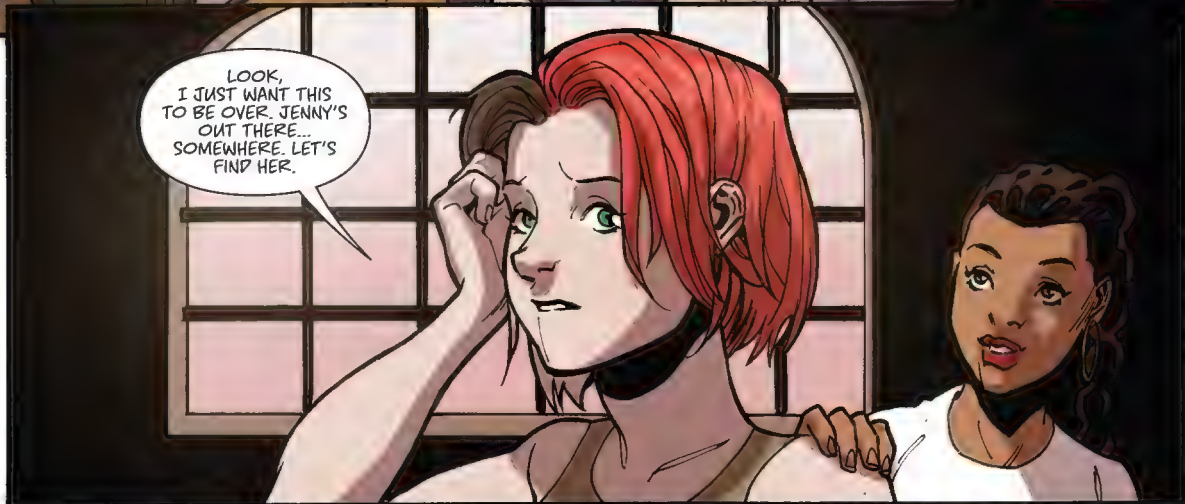
I THANK ALL THREE OF YOU FOR MEETING HERE TODAY--

I LIVE WITH YOU, I HAVE NO CHOICE.

--ON TIME AND PREPARED FOR TRAINING. I THINK WE HAVE FOUND ALREADY, JUST FROM THIS ONE SESSION.

TOGETHER WE'RE QUITE A STRONG TEAM. TOGETHER I KNOW WE CAN DEFEAT... HIM.

...CAN'T YOU JUST SAY **XANDER**? WHAT WERE YOU ALL SAYING BEFORE I GOT BACK? DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, OK?



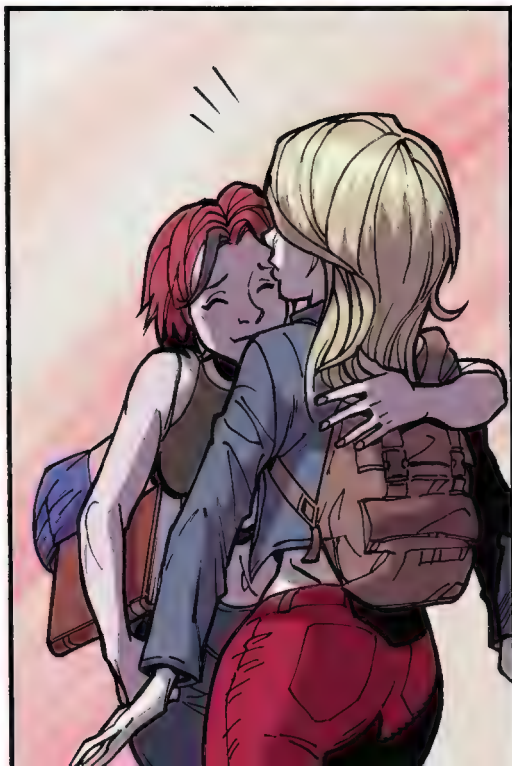
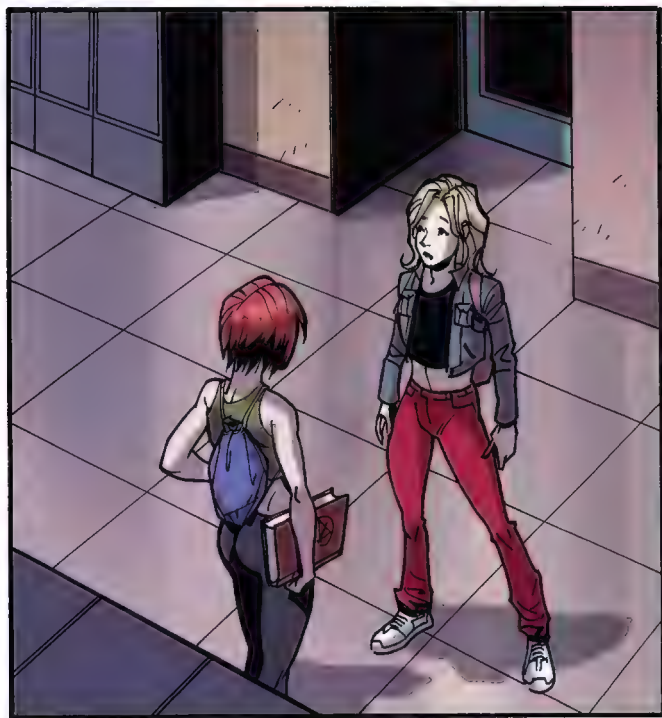
LOOK, I JUST WANT THIS TO BE OVER. JENNY'S OUT THERE... SOMEWHERE. LET'S FIND HER.

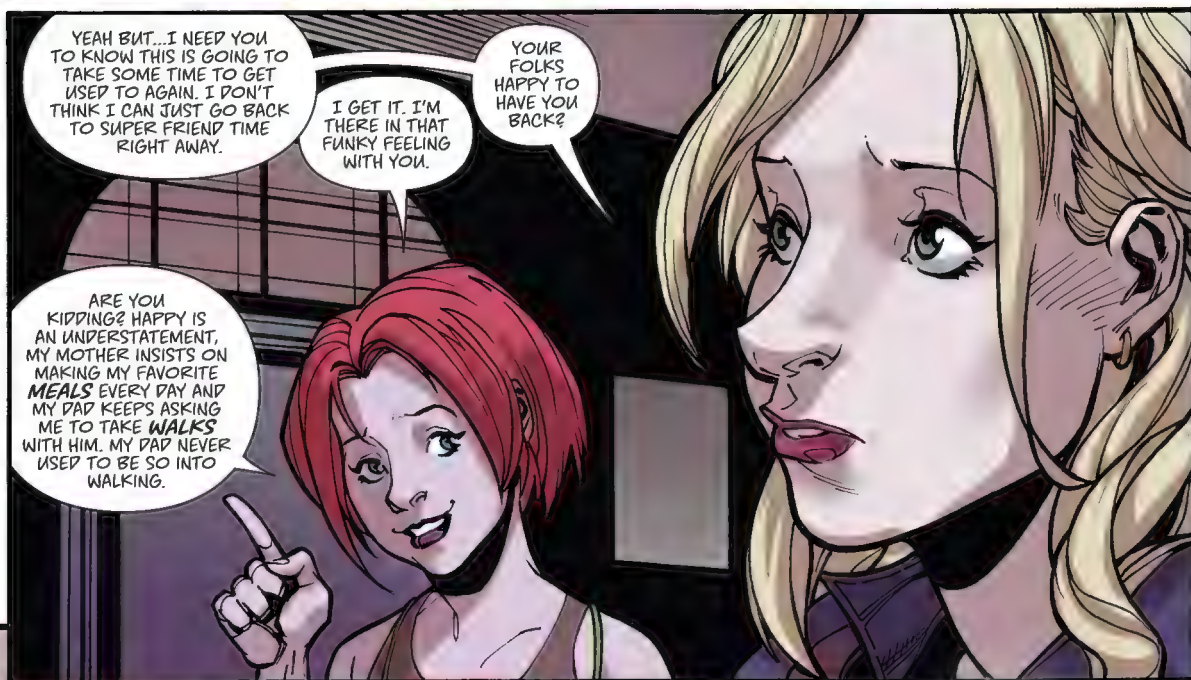
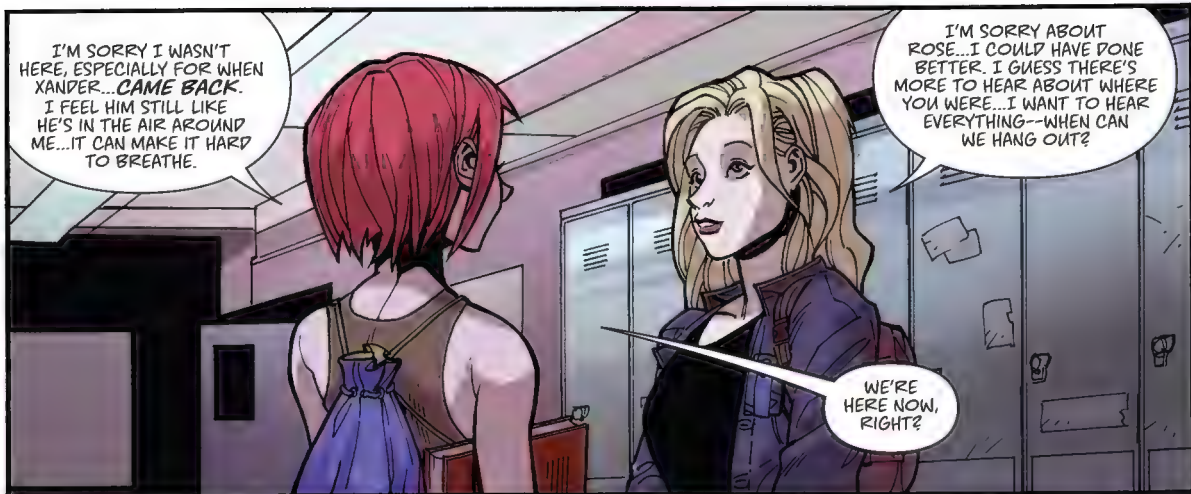


WILLOW, I ASKED ANYANKA TO ORDER THIS FOR ME BEFORE YOU LEFT...IT'S A BOOK I'D LIKE YOU TO STUDY. YOU'LL FIND MANY INTERESTING INCANTATIONS AND HISTORY HERE.

I KNEW YOU HAD AN INTEREST BUT NEVER KNEW YOU WOULD BE SUCH A NATURAL. I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOUR **SPELLWORK** SO FAR... BUT YOU'LL FIND THIS IS LIKE THE **TRIGONOMETRY** OF MAGIC.

YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO CHEER UP A BOOK NERD.







UHM, K? COOL HANG TIME, I GUESS. BYE?

YOUNG LOVE. JUST AS DUMB AND IGNORANT AS YOU WOULD EXPECT.

HOW LONG HAS THAT BEEN A THING?

IT'S BEEN A THING SINCE BEFORE I GOT HERE, RIGHT? BUFFY TELLS ME IT'S GETTING KINDA SERIOUS, THOUGH.



SHE TOLD YOU THAT?

I GUESS.

WELL, YOU KNOW OUR GIRL BUFFY, SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T GET HER TO STOP TALKING ABOUT A GUY SHE LIKES.



DO YOU
THINK SHE SHOULD
BE IN A RELATIONSHIP
RIGHT NOW, WITH
EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENED?

IT'S NOT
REALLY MY PLACE TO
SAY, I JUST KNOW SHE
SEEMS REALLY **HAPPY**
WHEN SHE'S WITH HIM.
THAT'S A LOT FOR **BUFFY**,
IT SEEMS--LETTING
HERSELF BE
HAPPY.



KRA

HAPPY...

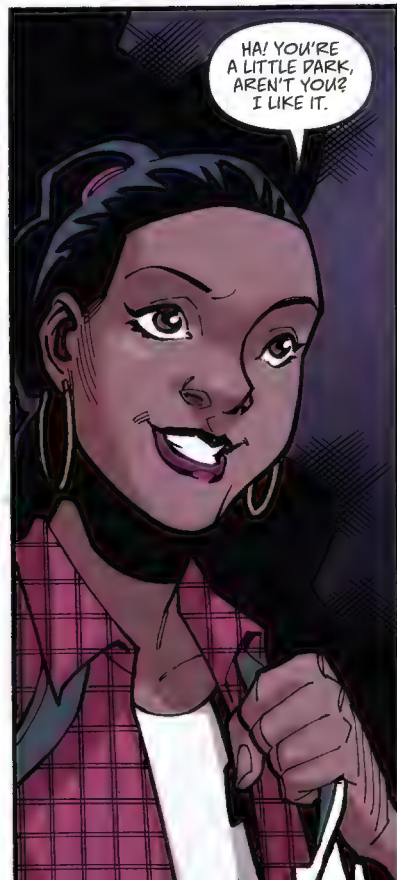
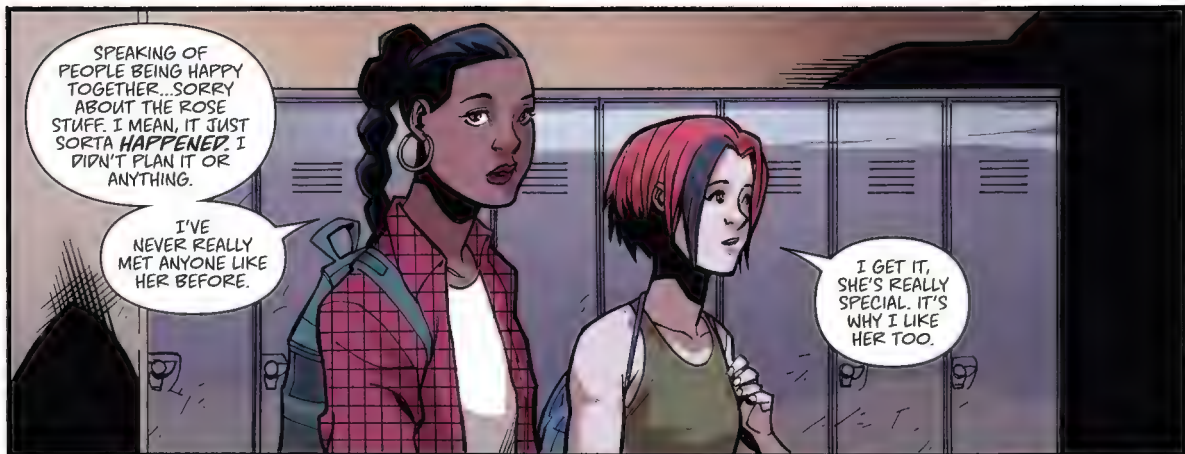


RIGHT, I'M NOT TRYING TO JUDGE
OR ANYTHING. I JUST DON'T
WANT TO SEE HER GETTING HURT
OR RUSHING INTO ANYTHING. IF
YOU SAY IT'S GETTING **SERIOUS**,
I WORRY ABOUT WHAT
THAT MEANS.

I WOULDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
BUFFY, I THINK SHE
CAN HANDLE
HERSELF.



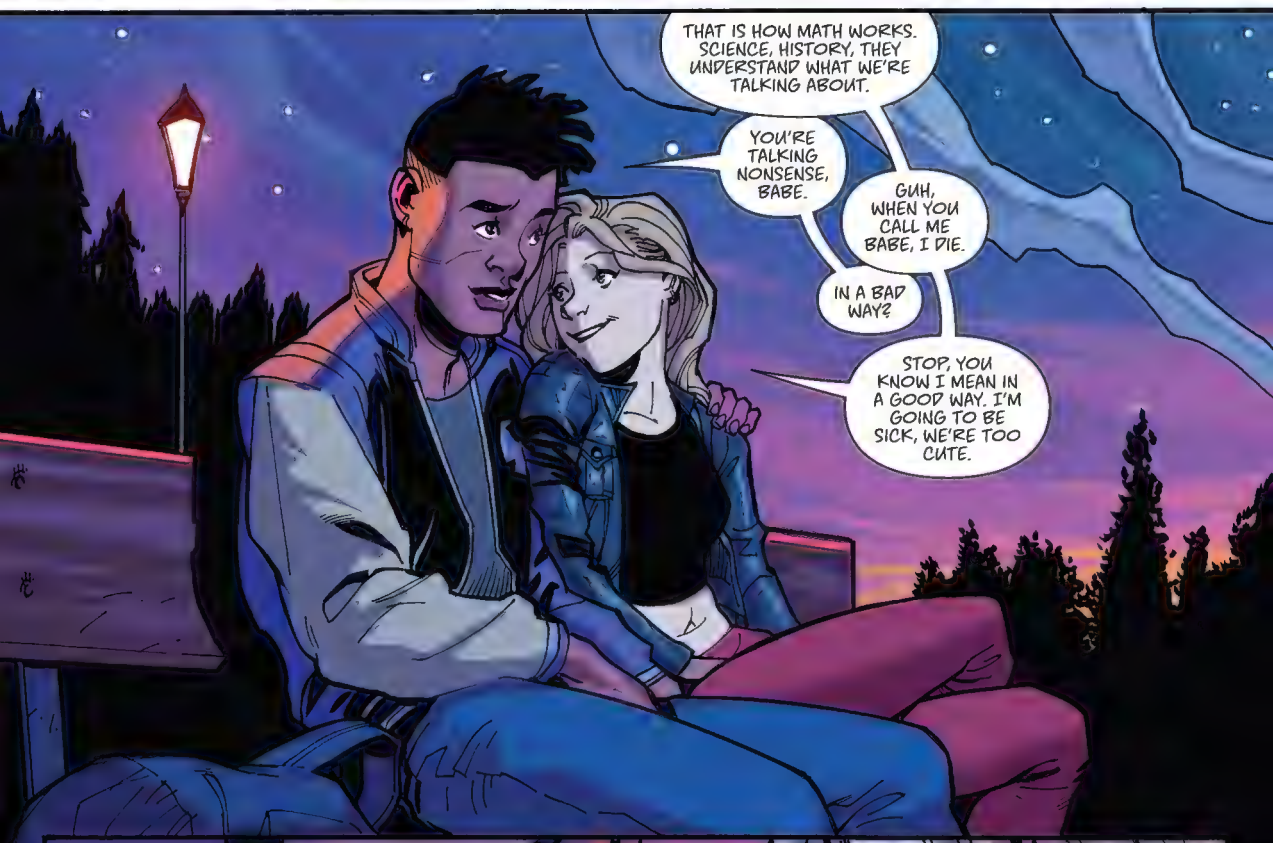
YOU'RE RIGHT,
I GUESS I'VE JUST
NEVER SEEN HER
ACTUALLY **DATING**
SOMEONE...IT'S A LOT
TO TAKE IN. IF SHE'S
HAPPY, THEN I'M
HAPPY, TOO. HAPPINESS
FOR EVERYONE.
HURRAY.





I
SHOULD
GO...MY
MOM--

BUT IF
YOU GO...WE
CAN'T STAY
HERE!



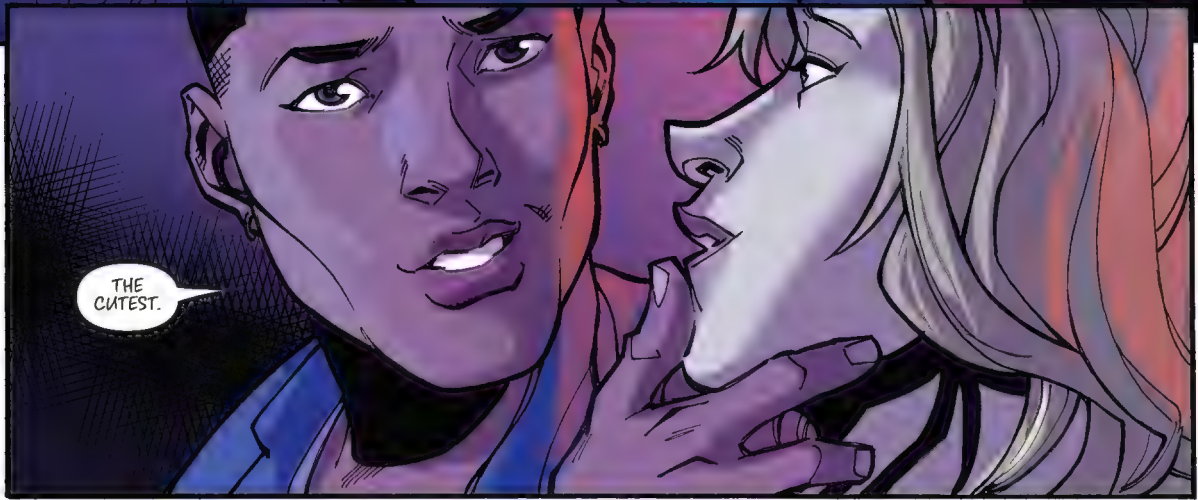
THAT IS HOW MATH WORKS.
SCIENCE, HISTORY, THEY
UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT.

YOU'RE
TALKING
NONSENSE,
BABE.

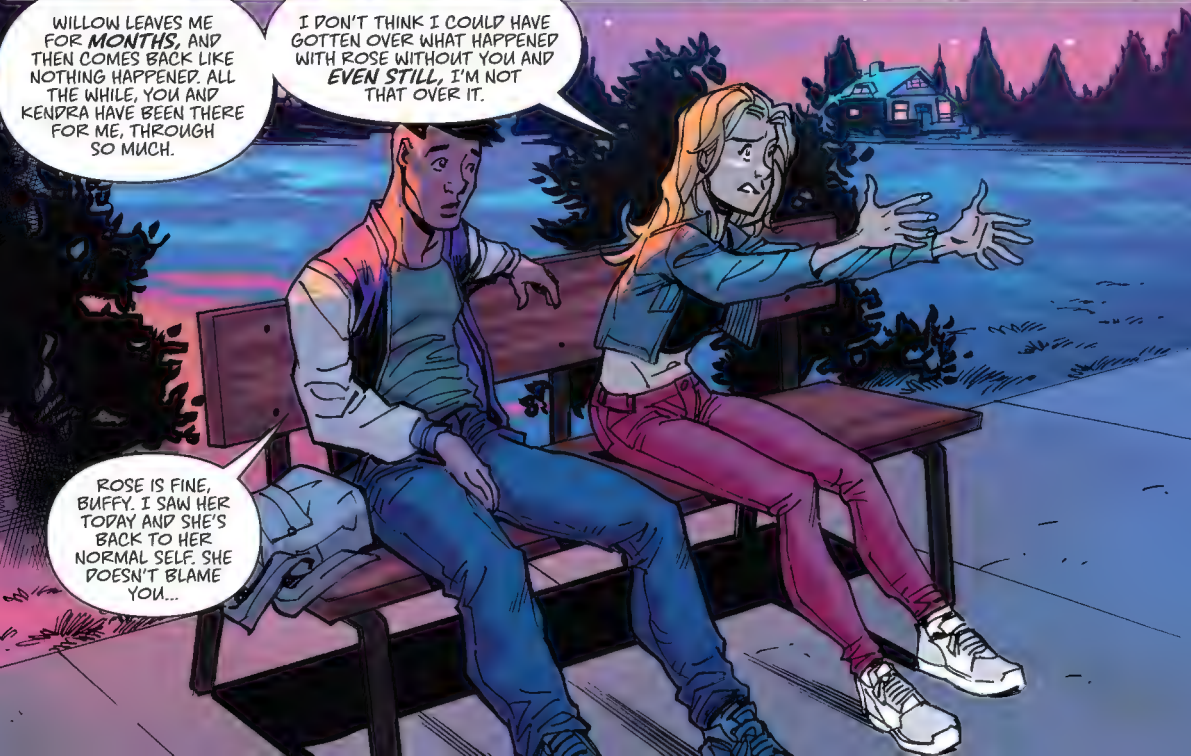
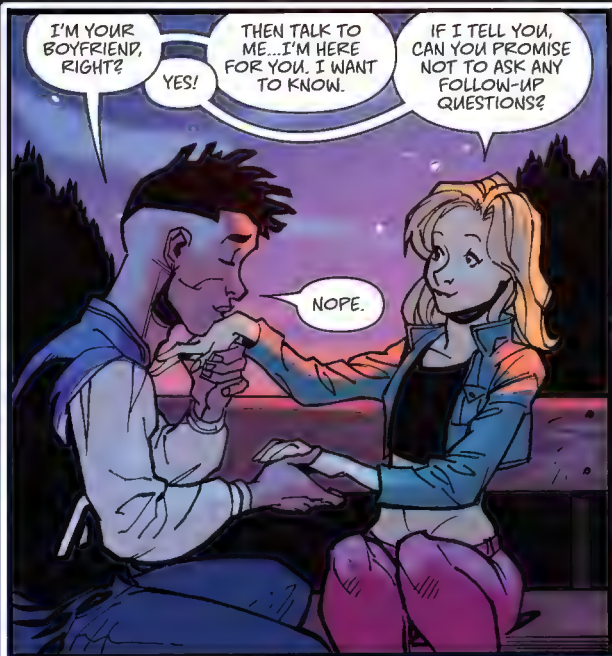
GUH,
WHEN YOU
CALL ME
BABE, I DIE.

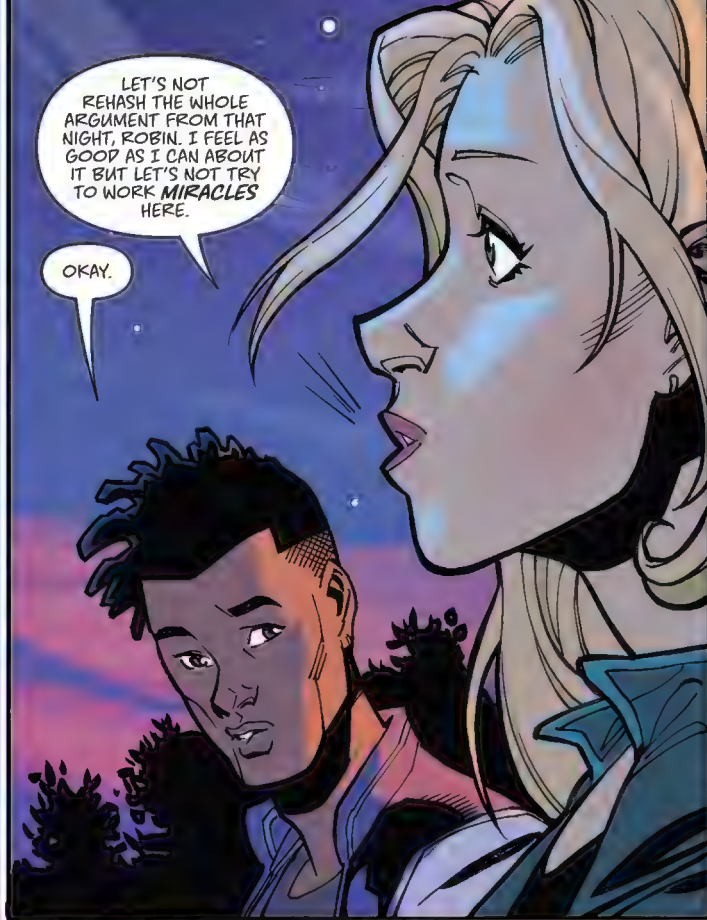
IN A BAD
WAY?

STOP, YOU
KNOW I MEAN IN
A GOOD WAY. I'M
GOING TO BE
SICK, WE'RE TOO
CUTE.



THE
CUTEST.





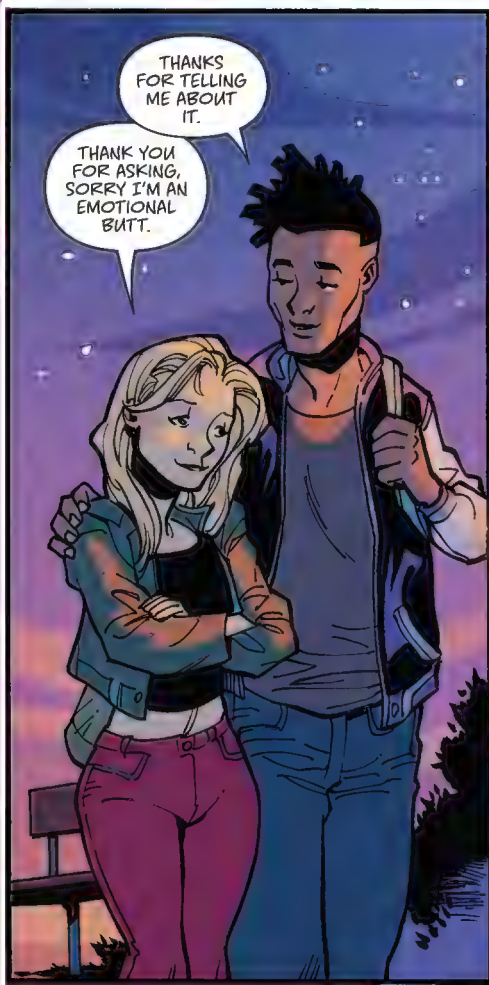
LET'S NOT REHASH THE WHOLE ARGUMENT FROM THAT NIGHT, ROBIN. I FEEL AS GOOD AS I CAN ABOUT IT BUT LET'S NOT TRY TO WORK **MIRACLES** HERE.

OKAY.



YOU'RE HAPPY WILLOW IS BACK THOUGH, RIGHT?

I AM... YEAH.



THANKS FOR TELLING ME ABOUT IT.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING, SORRY I'M AN EMOTIONAL BUTT.



I'M ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU AND YOUR BUTT.

I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT MY ACTUAL BUTT.

I WAS, THOUGH.

I GOT IT.



OH NO...
MOM! ERIC, IS
MOM OK? ARE
YOU OK?

BUFFY!
EVERYTHING
IS FINE!



WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHERE IS MOM?
YOUR FACE!

IT'S OK, I'M OK.
YOUR MOTHER HAD
TO WORK LATE...I WAS JUST
IN THE MIDDLE OF
MAKING US DINNER...



"THESE KIDS BROKE INTO
THE HOUSE...I THOUGHT
THEY WANTED MONEY, BUT
THEY JUST STARTED TO
REALLY LAY INTO ME.



"THEY WERE ASKING
WHERE YOU WERE,
WHERE JOYCE WAS..."



THEY ASKED
FOR THEM BY
NAME?



IT'S NOT
SAFE FOR YOU
TO BE HERE,
BUFFY.



HURRY UP, MS. CALENDAR-- I'M BORED WAITING FOR RESULTS.



I'M NOT EXACTLY AN EXPERT ON MAGICAL SUBSTANCES, THIS IS MY FIRST ROPEO, TOO.

YOU'RE NOT GIVING YOURSELF ENOUGH CREDIT...



"YOU'RE A REAL COWGIRL, I'VE SEEN YOUR WORK."



THAT WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT, I WAS IN MY HOME, I WAS IN A BETTER HEAD SPACE, IF YOU COULD JUST--

YOUR HOME?





MASTER!
MASTER XANDER,
MASTER XANDER!
TERRIBLE NEWS,
OH NO!



WHAT?!

THE SLAYER'S
MOTHER...SHE WAS
NOT...HOME. OUR LITTLE
GOBLINS COULD NOT
RETRIEVE HER FOR
YOU...

JOYCE?
WHAT DO
YOU WANT
WITH
JOYCE?



I WILL MAKE
HER LOVE ME!
I WILL MAKE
HER SEE.

IS THIS
WHAT ALL OF THIS
IS ABOUT? IS THIS...
SOME PATHETIC LOVE
POTION YOU HAVE ME
BREWING? HOW
DERANGED ARE YOU?
BUFFY IS YOUR
FRIEND.



BUFFY?

BUFFY. EVERYONE'S FAVORITE.
SHE'S NOTHING BUT COLLATERAL.
SO IS JOYCE AND SO ARE YOU.
IT'S ALL IN AN EFFORT TO DRAW
HER HOME...CLOSER TO ME.
I CAN FEEL HER IN THE AIR...
ALL THE TIME.



XANDER, WHO
ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

SHUT UP AND
FOLLOW THE
RECIPE I'VE GIVEN
YOU. I NEED THIS
TO WORK...



"...I NEED HER WITH ME."

WILLOW,
I REALLY
MISSED
YOU.



I MISSED
YOU, TOO,
ROSE.

THIS IS SO
CONFUSING BUT IT
ALL FEELS REALLY
UNFAIR. I REALLY
LIKE YOU BUT
KENDRA...



WHOA, ROSE--I'M
BACK IN SUNNYPDALE,
BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN I EXPECTED
ANYTHING...

OH--I GUESS I JUST
THOUGHT...BECAUSE
YOU ASKED ME OVER
AND YOU VISITED
THE HOSPITAL...

WHAT? NO WAY.
IT'S NOT MY STYLE TO
TRY AND BREAK PEOPLE UP--
I'M JUST LUCKY I HAVE ANY
FRIENDS AT ALL, CONSIDERING
MY BEST FRIEND LOST HIS SOUL,
GOT SOME OF MY SOUL, DIED
AND LOST THE SOUL
AND NOW IS A BIG VAMPIRE
BAD OUT TO DESTROY
SUNNYPDALE.

HOW DO I
EVEN **COPE**
WITH THAT ON
MY OWN?



YOU'RE NOT
AS ALONE AS YOU
MAKE YOURSELF OUT
TO BE. WE'RE **ALL** HERE
FOR YOU, WE'VE **ALWAYS**
BEEN HERE FOR YOU.
ALL YOU EVER HAVE
TO DO IS CALL,
WILL.

THANKS.



WHY DID YOU ASK ME HERE TONIGHT, ANYWAY?

I NEEDED YOUR HELP. THIS BOOK, GILES GAVE IT TO ME TONIGHT AND I'VE ALREADY BEEN READING...

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INTO ALL THIS STUFF? YOU NEVER TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT. I JUST THOUGHT YOU WORE PENTAGRAMS BECAUSE THEY LOOKED COOL.

I THINK AFTER MEETING BUFFY, I REALIZED THERE ARE THINGS OUT THERE YOU NEVER DREAM OF BEING **REAL**... VAMPIRES, WITCHES, MONSTERS.

LEARNING EVEN JUST A LITTLE MAGIC MADE ME FEEL...

STRONG?

LIKE I COULD FINALLY BRING SOMETHING TO THE FIGHT, AND WITH WHERE THIS WORLD IS HEADED. I WANTED TO FEEL LIKE I COULD ACTUALLY **DO SOMETHING** TO CHANGE IT.

FOR INSTANCE, I CAN USE THIS...TO DISCOVER WHERE JENNY IS. I CAN ACTUALLY **PROJECT MYSELF** TO THE LAST PLACE SHE WAS ALIVE.

THIS LOOKS... COMPLICATED.

AND THE WORSE CASE SCENARIO?

UH--THESE MAGIC BOOKS DON'T USUALLY COME WITH **TROUBLESHOOTING** INSTRUCTIONS.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE OF JENNY'S ANYWAY?

GILES SAID HE ORDERED IT SPECIAL...BUT IT WAS JENNY'S--I THINK HE WANTED ME TO FIND THIS.

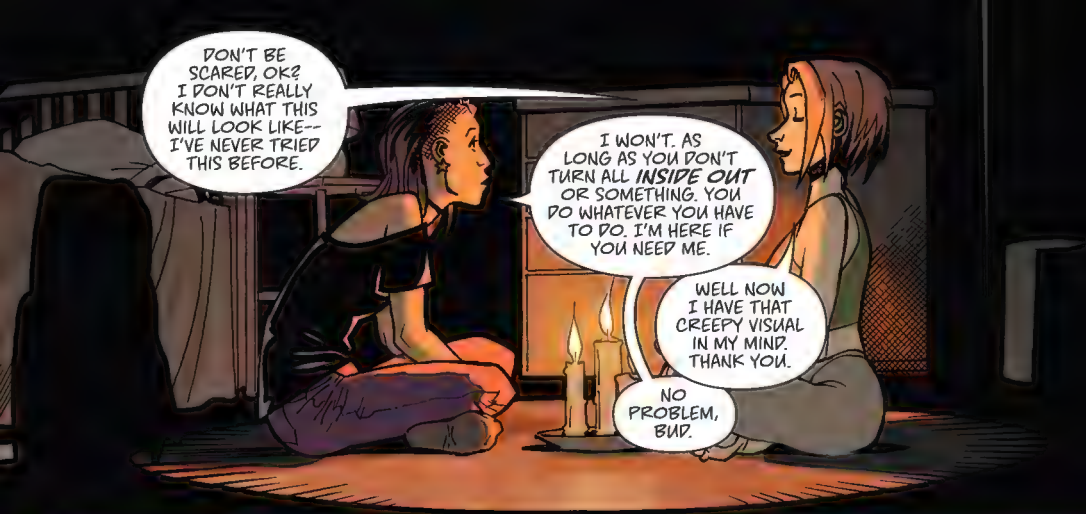
OR IT WAS JUST TOO PAINFUL TO KEEP IT.

EITHER WAY...

IT ISN'T THOUGH! FROM WHAT I GATHER, IT'S LIKE A LONG RIVER...THERE'S A LOT THERE BUT WITH JENNY'S NAME IN MIND AND SOMETHING OF HERS IN HAND.

IT WILL DIRECT ME TO HER, UH-- IN THEORY.

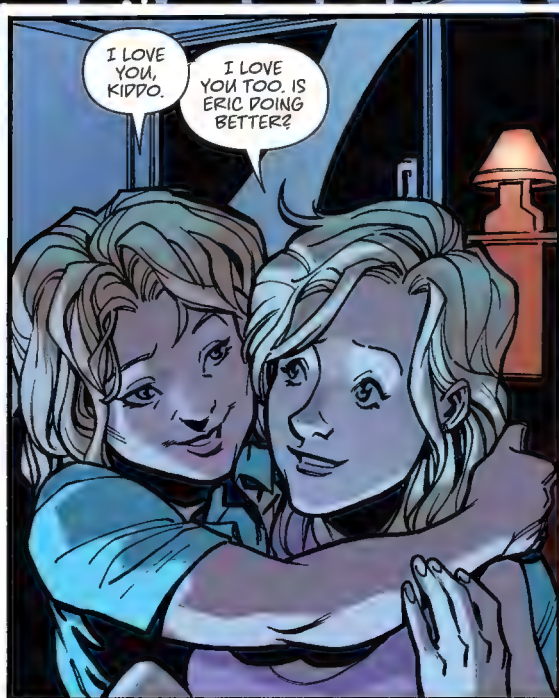






HONEY?
ARE YOU
OK?

YEAH.
I MEAN, I
GUESS.



I LOVE
YOU,
KIDDO.

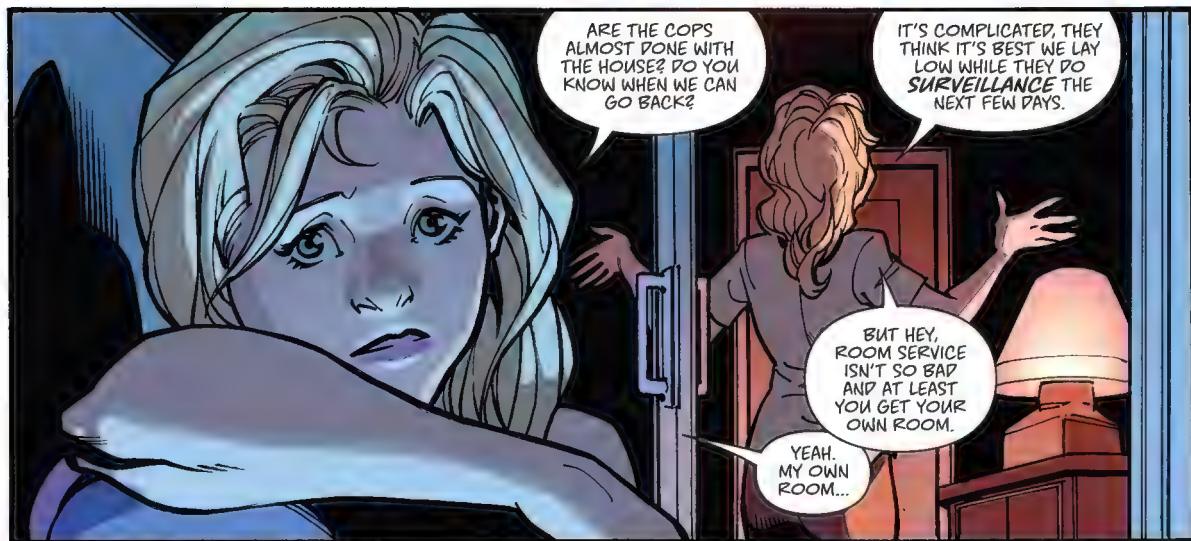
I LOVE
YOU TOO. IS
ERIC DOING
BETTER?



YOU KNOW HIM, "BLAH, BLAH.
I'M A DOCTOR, I'VE SEEN
WORSE, I CAN STITCH THIS WITH
FLOSS AND A TOOTHPICK, BLAH
BLAH. DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME."

HE'S A
TOUGH GUY,
MOM.

HE
IS, ISN'T
HE?



ARE THE COPS
ALMOST DONE WITH
THE HOUSE? DO YOU
KNOW WHEN WE CAN
GO BACK?

IT'S COMPLICATED, THEY
THINK IT'S BEST WE LAY
LOW WHILE THEY DO
SURVEILLANCE THE
NEXT FEW DAYS.

BUT HEY,
ROOM SERVICE
ISN'T SO BAD
AND AT LEAST
YOU GET YOUR
OWN ROOM.

YEAH.
MY OWN
ROOM...



BUFFY,
I'M SO GLAD YOU
CALLED ME. I WAS
WORRIED.

SHH, IT'S NOT
IMPORTANT
RIGHT NOW. I'M
JUST HAPPY TO
SEE YOU.

I DON'T KNOW
IF I SHOULD HAVE EVEN
COME OUT HERE...THEY ARE
REALLY TAKING IT SERIOUSLY
THAT THESE GUYS KNEW
YOUR NAMES. DO YOU THINK
IT WAS **XANDER**? IT MUST
HAVE BEEN. WHAT IF
SOMEONE **FOLLOWED**
ME?

NO
ONE FOLLOWED
YOU. BESIDES, THEY
PROBABLY ALREADY
KNOW WHERE WE
ARE.



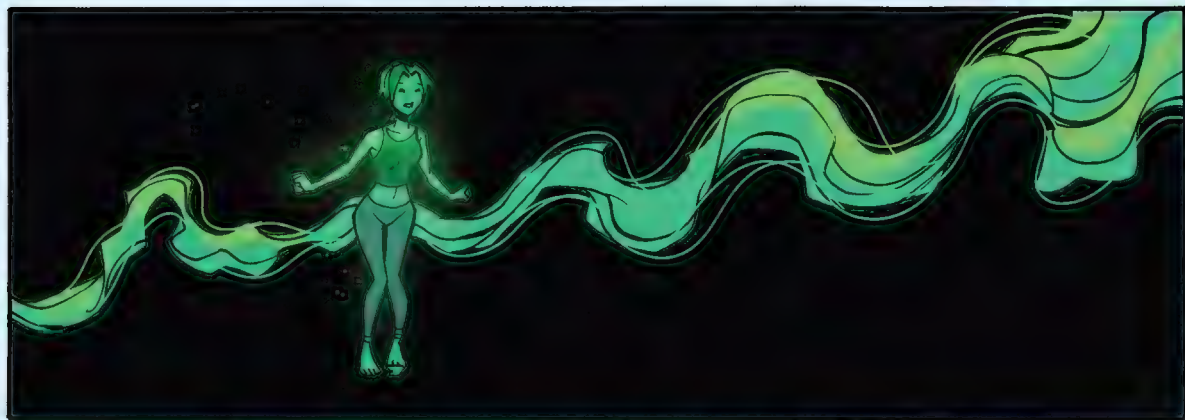
IT IS
IMPORTANT. IS
YOUR MOM OK?
IS ERIC?

ROBIN, PLEASE,
I DON'T WANT TO
THINK ABOUT THAT
RIGHT NOW. IT WAS
AWFUL. BUT WE'RE
HERE NOW. YOU'RE
HERE NOW. I'M
HERE NOW.

IT'S SCARY,
AREN'T YOU
SCARED?

NOT
WITH YOU
HERE.

I REALLY
WANT YOU TO
SPEND THE
NIGHT WITH
ME.



buffy the vampire slayer #18

Night, Robin x

B

R

Buffy?

R

You there?

R

???

R

Your phone broken?

R

Where are you?

R

Oh

R

Ok. I get it.

CHAPTER

NINETEEN

Issue Nineteen Cover by **David López**



DAVID
LOPEZ



AT FIRST, I
NEVER THOUGHT
I COULD BE
WITHOUT YOU,
WILL...



BUT THEN I
REALIZED, I WAS
THINKING TOO
SMALL.



WE'RE
BOUND TO
EACH OTHER,
AREN'T
WE?



I WASN'T
HERE FOR YOU--
I WAS HERE FOR--
WAIT, HOW CAN YOU
EVEN SEE ME?

I DON'T
ASSUME TO
KNOW HOW THE
CHEMISTRY
OF MAGIC
WORKS.

IT WOULDN'T
BE **CHEMISTRY**,
XANDER. IT WOULD
BE MORE LIKE
PHYSICS OR
EVEN--



WHY AM I EVEN
TALKING TO YOU!
YOU HAVE JENNY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU!

YOU'RE
SURPRISED?

WELL, YES! BUT
NO, I GUESS. I'M
CONFUSED.

I'M
A VAMPIRE...
I AM SORT OF
THE **BIG BAD**
OF THE SEASON,
YOU KNOW?



UGH,
YOU'RE JUST
AS ANNOYING AS
HUMAN XANDER
EVER WAS.

WHY ALL THIS
COMPARISON TO THE
XANDER YOU KNEW
BEFORE? YOU **WERE**
MY FRIEND WHEN I WAS
BETWEEN THE TWO
WORLDS.

YEAH, WHEN YOU WERE
ALL DEL'S STRAWBERRY
SURPRISE/VANILLA SWIRL...



YOU KNOW
I FINALLY GOT HIM
TO STOP SELLING
THAT HORRIBLE
EXCUSE OF AN ICE
CREAM?

REALLY--
H-HOW?

I KILLED
HIM, OF
COURSE.



WHAT? I'M KIDDING! A JOKE. WE DON'T JOKE ANYMORE?

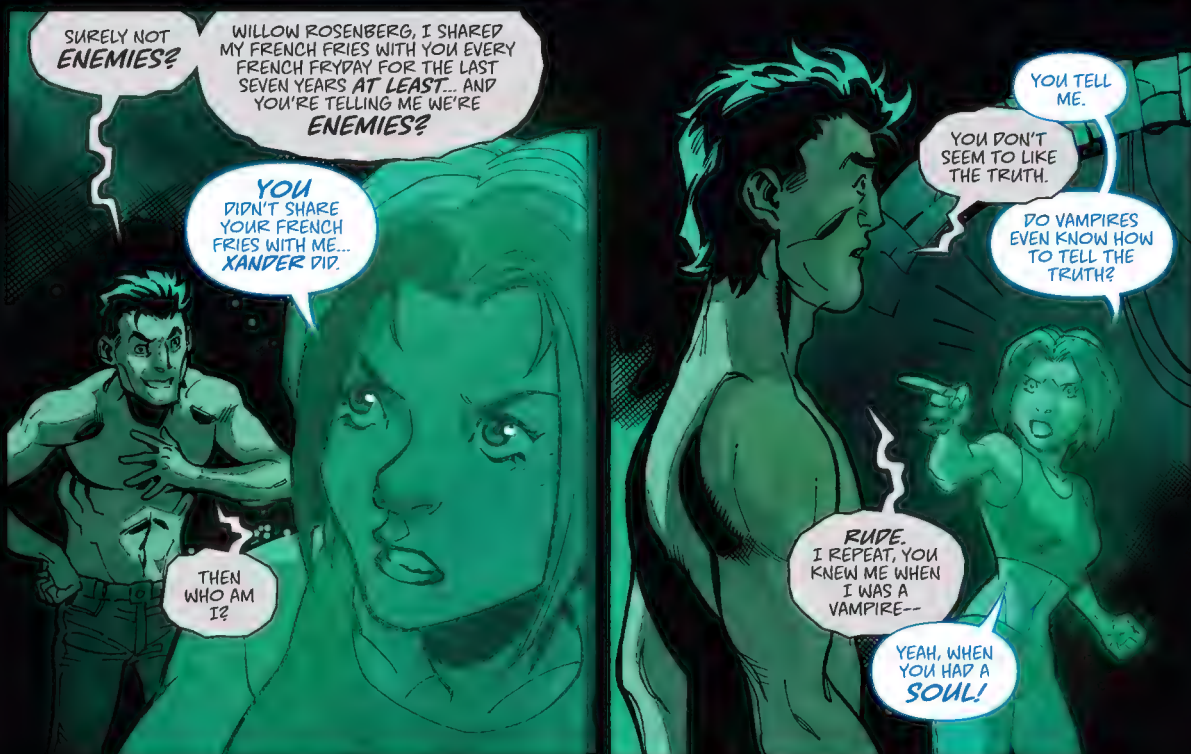
WHERE'S JENNY, XANDER?

SHE'S FINE...WHY ARE YOU OBSESSING OVER THAT? YOU'VE BEEN AWAY! I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS.

SO, YOU WENT TO ENGLAND. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE? LET'S CATCH UP.

LOOK, XANDER-- YOU CAN'T... WE'RE NOT FRIENDS.

THEN WHAT ARE WE?



SURELY NOT ENEMIES?

WILLOW ROSENBERG, I SHARED MY FRENCH FRIES WITH YOU EVERY FRENCH FRYDAY FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS AT LEAST... AND YOU'RE TELLING ME WE'RE ENEMIES?

YOU DIDN'T SHARE YOUR FRENCH FRIES WITH ME... XANDER DID.

THEN WHO AM I?

YOU TELL ME.

YOU DON'T SEEM TO LIKE THE TRUTH.

DO VAMPIRES EVEN KNOW HOW TO TELL THE TRUTH?

RUDE. I REPEAT, YOU KNEW ME WHEN I WAS A VAMPIRE--

YEAH, WHEN YOU HAD A SOUL!



AH. SO THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU...



I'M AT A LOSS, WILL--
BECAUSE A SOUL IS
NOT A PHYSICAL THING,
IS IT? ALL I KNOW IS,
I AM.

AND NONE
OF THAT EVEN MAKES
SENSE TO ME. IF
EVERYTHING IS SO HUNKY
DORY, HOW COME YOU
DON'T LIVE IN YOUR
HOUSE--XANDER'S
HOUSE!

IT'S BECAUSE
YOU'RE NOT REAL,
YOU'RE NOT
ANYTHING, YOU'RE
JUST SOME--



MONSTER!

FEEL BETTER
NOW? BECAUSE I
SURE DON'T. I AM
A MONSTER. I'M
ALL ALONE.

I HAVE TO BUY MY SPF FROM THE SECRET
MILITARY PROGRAM JUST SO I CAN SEE AN INCH
OF A PAWN SKY BEFORE I CLAW MY WAY BACK
HERE...TO MY HOME. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
MY BEST FRIEND WOULD GET THAT.

SPF?
SECRET MILITARY
PROGRAM?

THE
INTERNET,
WILL--LOOK
IT UP.



I DON'T WANT TO LOSE
YOU. I'VE LOST EVERYTHING
ELSE. I DIDN'T...I DIDN'T
ASK FOR THIS.

WELL,
I'M ASKING WHERE
YOU'RE KEEPING JENNY!
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH
THE TAKING HER HOSTAGE
THING? PRETTY AWFUL
AND HARD TO MAKE
EXCUSES FOR THAT,
MR. NOT-ACTUALLY-
A-BAD-GUY.



I JUST...
I NEEDED HER
HELP. I NEEDED
YOU BACK.



YEAH, WELL
WHERE IS SHE
THEN? IS SHE
OK?

DON'T
YOU SEE, WILL?
WE'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER.
REMEMBER WHEN
WE WERE KIDS, WE
WOULD--

STOP!
I NEED A
MINUTE, I
JUST NEED
TO--

**WILLOW!
WILLOW!
COME OUT!
ABORT!**

WGH--
DO YOU
HEAR
THAT?



NO? ARE YOU
OK? HOW ARE
YOU EVEN HERE
RIGHT NOW, IS
THIS SAFE?

**WILLOW!
WILLOW!
CAN YOU HEAR ME!**



I HAVE
TO GO.

PLEASE,
WILL, DON'T
LEAVE ME--
I JUST WANT
THINGS TO BE
THE WAY THEY
WERE.

MAYBE...
THERE'S
SOMEONE I
CAN TALK
TO.

REALLY?
YOU'LL HELP
ME?

YOU
NEED TO PROVE THAT
YOU'RE...
YOU.

HOW
DO I DO
THAT?

LET
JENNY
GO.



...AND
THEN WE CAN
TALK.



ROSE?! IS EVERYTHING OK?



BUFFY...

I'M SORRY, I JUST...I NEEDED MY BEST FRIEND.

I'M GONNA GO. I'LL SEE YOU LATER. BE...COOL?



WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU AND ROBIN BREAK UP OR SOMETHING?

WHAT? NO. GOSH. MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW.

START FROM THE BEGINNING, BUFFY.

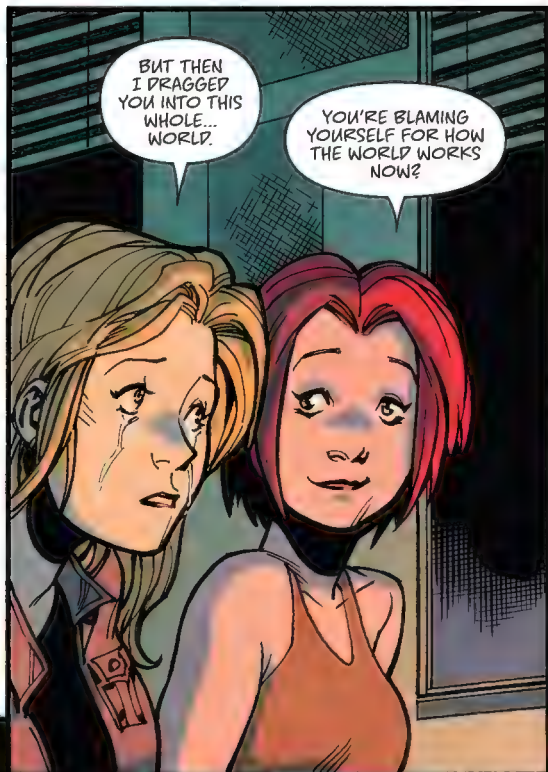


I MESSED UP--JUST LIKE I ALWAYS DO.

YOU'RE NOT BEING VERY NICE TO MY FRIEND BUFFY RIGHT NOW, CAN YOU TRY AGAIN?

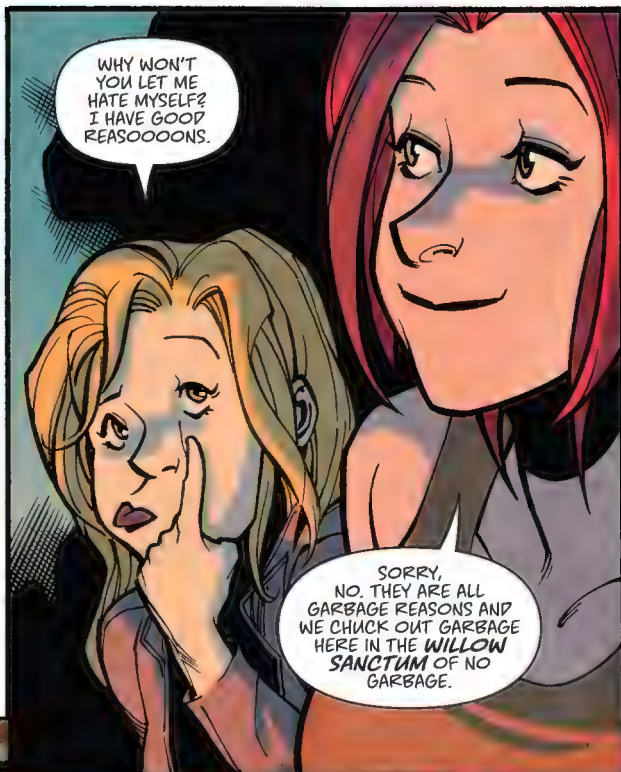
I THINK I RUSHED STUFF, WILL. WITH ROBIN. I RUSHED IT.





BUT THEN
I DRAGGED
YOU INTO THIS
WHOLE...
WORLD.

YOU'RE BLAMING
YOURSELF FOR HOW
THE WORLD WORKS
NOW?



WHY WON'T
YOU LET ME
HATE MYSELF?
I HAVE GOOD
REASOOOONS.

SORRY,
NO. THEY ARE ALL
GARBAGE REASONS AND
WE CHUCK OUT GARBAGE
HERE IN THE **WILLOW
SANCTUM** OF NO
GARBAGE.



IT REALLY
IS A SANCTUM.
WHAT'S WITH ALL
THE CANDLES,
BABE?

OH--
UH, NOTHING.
JUST TRYING TO
FIND JENNY, YOU
KNOW. DO MY
PART.

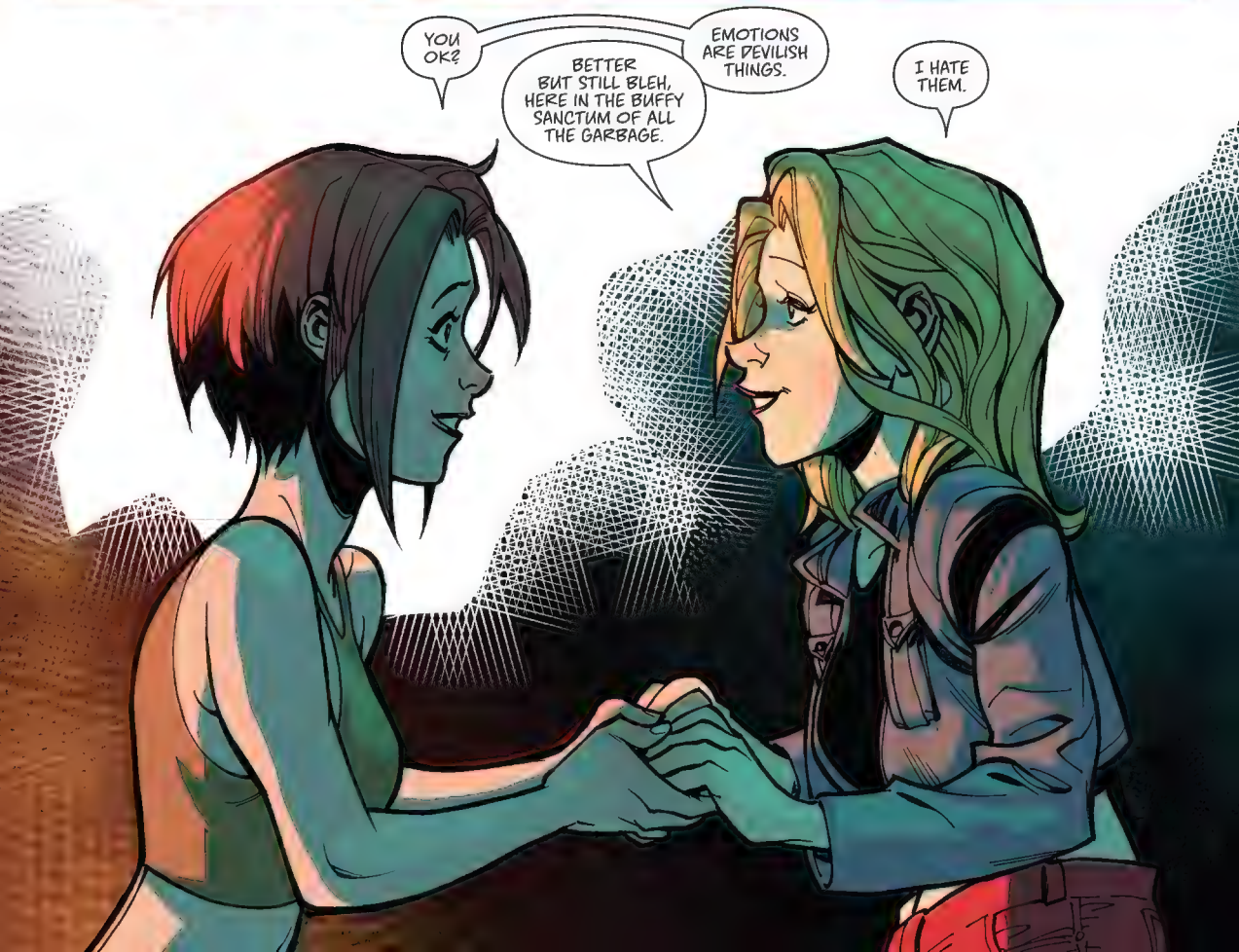
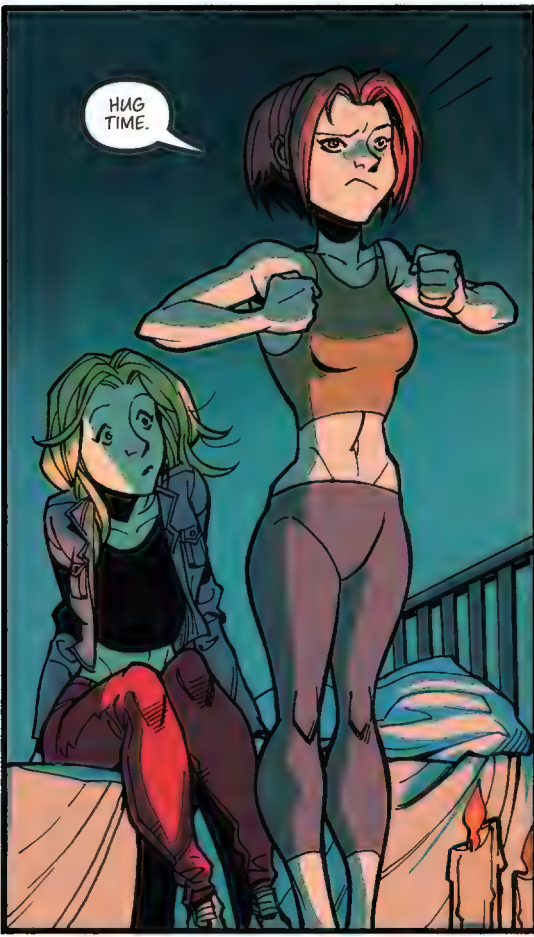
HUH,
YOU CAN
DO THAT
NOW?

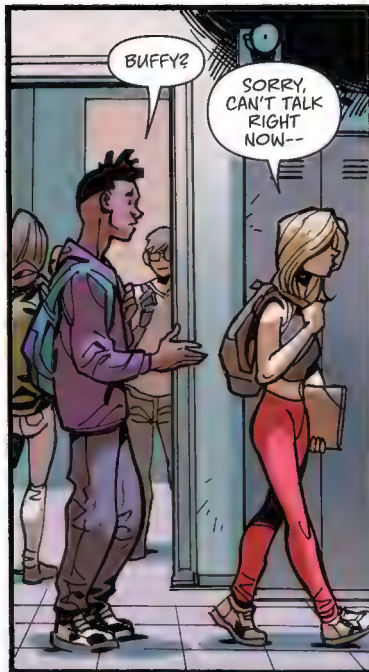
...NO, NOT
EXACTLY.



FAIR,
COOL THAT
YOU TRIED,
THOUGH.

YEAH, I
GUESS.







MR. WOOD--
I'D VERY MUCH
LIKE TO LEAVE CAMPUS
NOW, BUT IF A STUDENT
IS PRESENT, I'M
REQUIRED TO STAY...



SORRY, I'M
WAITING FOR
SOMEONE.

WHO?
BUFFY? SHE'S
NOT IN
TODAY.

WHAT?
SHE'S *ALWAYS*
IN HERE AFTER
CLASS.

NOT
TODAY.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND THIS,
FIRST SHE WANTS
TO SEE ME THEN SHE
DOESN'T. THEN SHE
GHOSTS ME AND
THEN--

ROBIN,
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

NO OFFENSE,
BUT I DON'T REALLY
WANNA TALK TO BUFFY'S
WATCHER...ABOUT
BUFFY.



AH. I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND, I WON'T PRY FURTHER INTO SUCH...PERSONAL MATTERS.



I DON'T GET GIRLS-- THEY WANT YOU AND THEN DON'T WANT YOU. THEY WANT YOU TO APPRECIATE THEM AND NOT USE THEM. THEY WANT YOU TO BE THE NICE GUY AND NOT THE JERK, RIGHT? AM I MISSING SOMETHING?

THAT ALL SOUNDS QUITE--

SO, I DON'T RUSH HER, I DON'T ASK HER FOR ANYTHING BESIDES HER COMPANY. I LIKE HER, GILES, I REALLY DO, BUT SOMETIMES, I DON'T THINK SHE'S THINKING FAR ENOUGH AHEAD.

THAT DOES NOT SOUND--

I'M NOT TRYING TO SPEAK FOR HER! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN HER HEAD, BUT I KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A SLAYER.



WHY DATE HER THEN?

I JUST TOLD YOU I LIKE HER. I WANT TO BE AROUND HER.

YET...YOU FEEL AS IF SHE SHOULD HAVE NO **DISTRACTIONS** TO HER RESPONSIBILITIES?

RIGHT-- WELL, YEAH.



IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU FEEL BUFFY IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE HER CAKE AND EAT IT TOO.

IF I'M HEARING YOU CORRECTLY, SHE SHOULD **CHOOSE** BETWEEN BEING YOUR GIRLFRIEND OR BEING A SLAYER THAT PROTECTS THE WORLD FROM ALL SUPERNATURAL AND/OR EVIL FORCES?

...HEY, WHY AM I TAKING ADVICE ABOUT WOMEN FROM YOU? DIDN'T **YOUR** GIRLFRIEND BREAK UP WITH YOU?

SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--



IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU AREN'T SURE OF YOUR **PLACE** IN BUFFY'S LIFE. IT IS A DIFFICULT ONE TO MANAGE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION ALL TOO WELL.

BEING PART OF BUFFY'S WORLD PUTS MUCH OF ONE'S REALITY ON HOLD.



PERHAPS IT'S BEST YOU AND BUFFY DISCUSS THIS... **TOGETHER**. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MATURELY TAKE STOCK OF WHERE THIS RELATIONSHIP IS GOING AND IF IT CAN LAST.

YEAH, BUT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME.

I WOULD **RESPECT** THAT. YOU SHOULD TRUST THAT PEOPLE ARE EXPERTS IN THEMSELVES.



UGH, BUT FOR HOW LONG?

AS LONG AS IT TAKES. IN THE MEANTIME, IF YOU'RE FEELING FRUSTRATED, YOU KNOW WHERE THE LOCAL CEMETERIES ARE AND PATROL PROTOCOL-- GET OUT YOUR FEELINGS THERE.

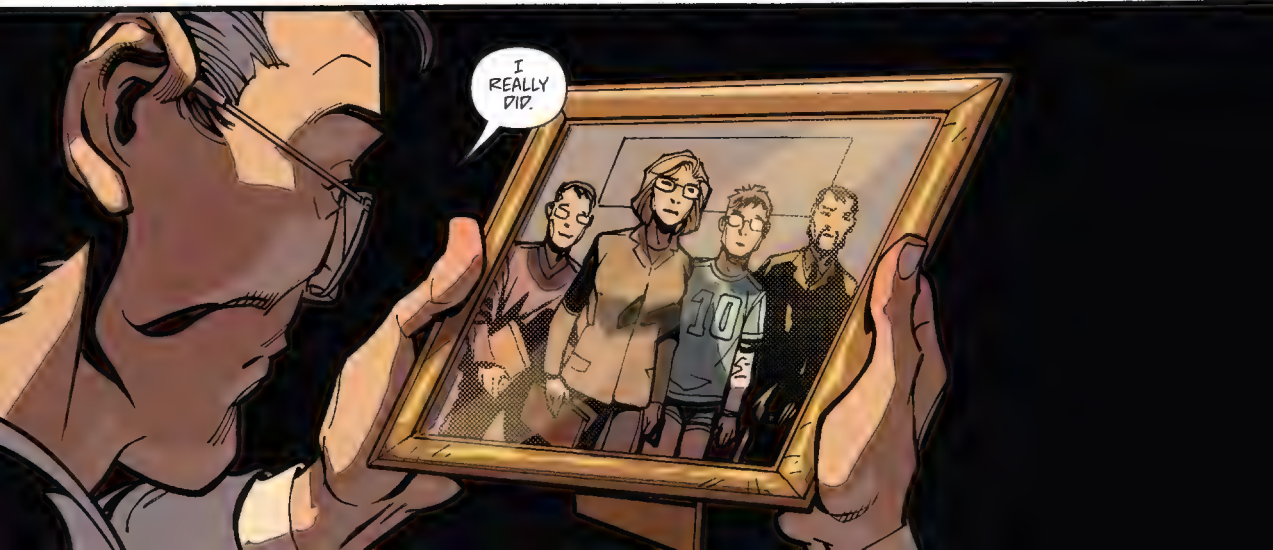
LIKE THAT MOVIE, WITH THE WAREHOUSE...THE **PANCING**. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. CUT LOOSE.

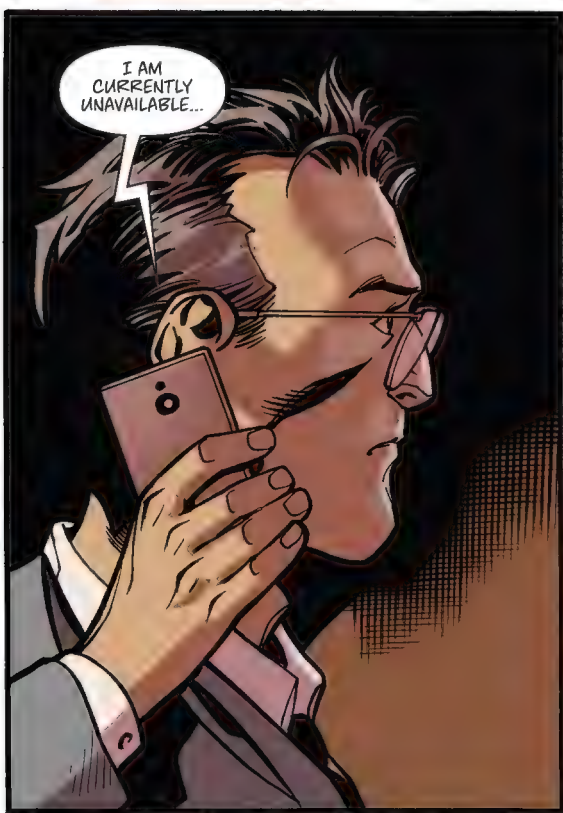
...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

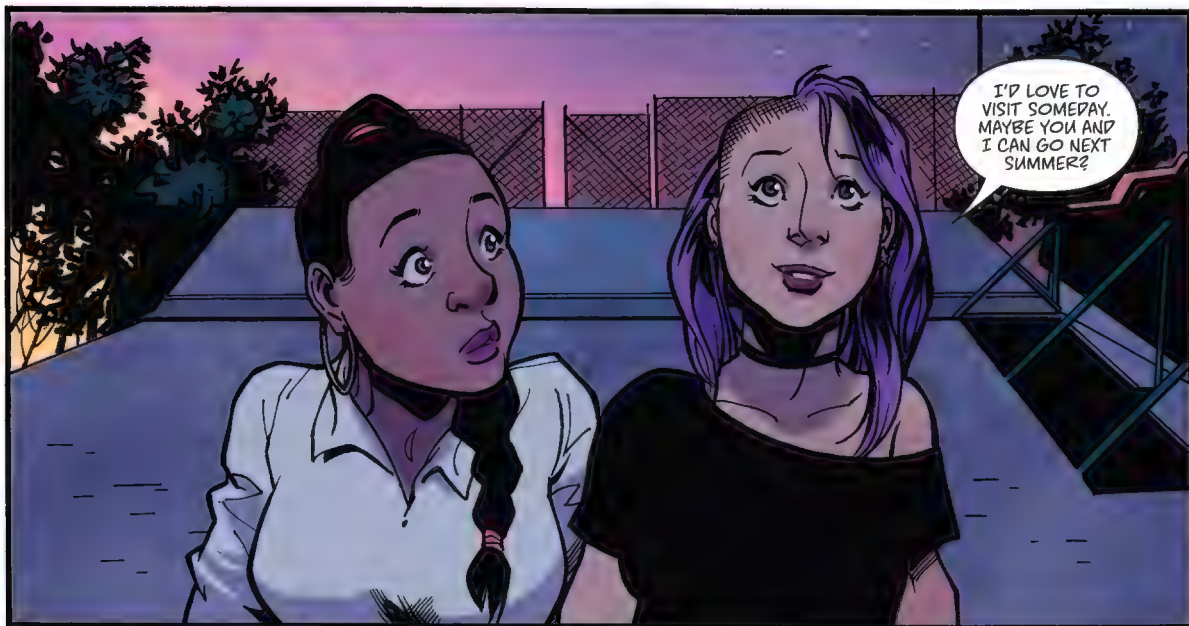


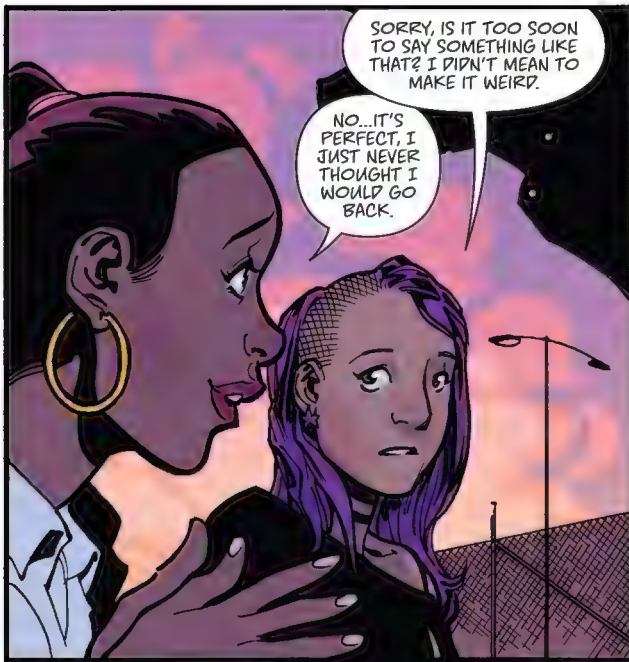
WHY DO I ALWAYS GET THE FEELING ANYONE BORN AFTER 1997 IS ATTEMPTING TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I'VE GONE MAD?

COOL CONVERSATION, GILES. THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK.



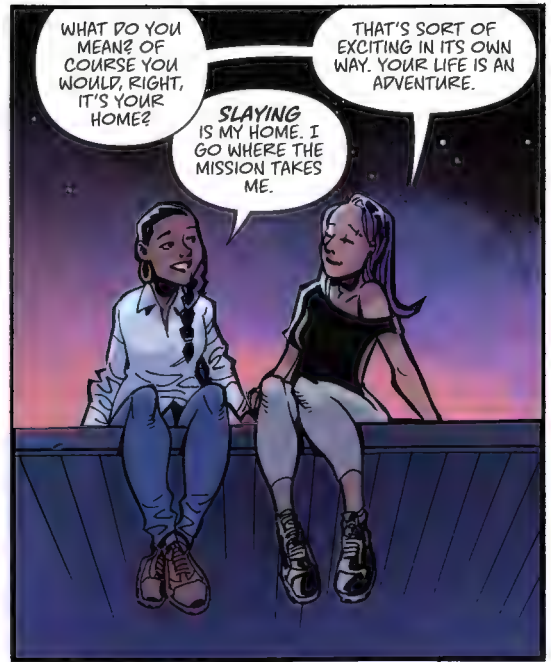






SORRY, IS IT TOO SOON TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE IT WEIRD.

NO...IT'S PERFECT, I JUST NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD GO BACK.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? OF COURSE YOU WOULD, RIGHT, IT'S YOUR HOME?

THAT'S SORT OF EXCITING IN ITS OWN WAY. YOUR LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE.

SLAYING IS MY HOME. I GO WHERE THE MISSION TAKES ME.

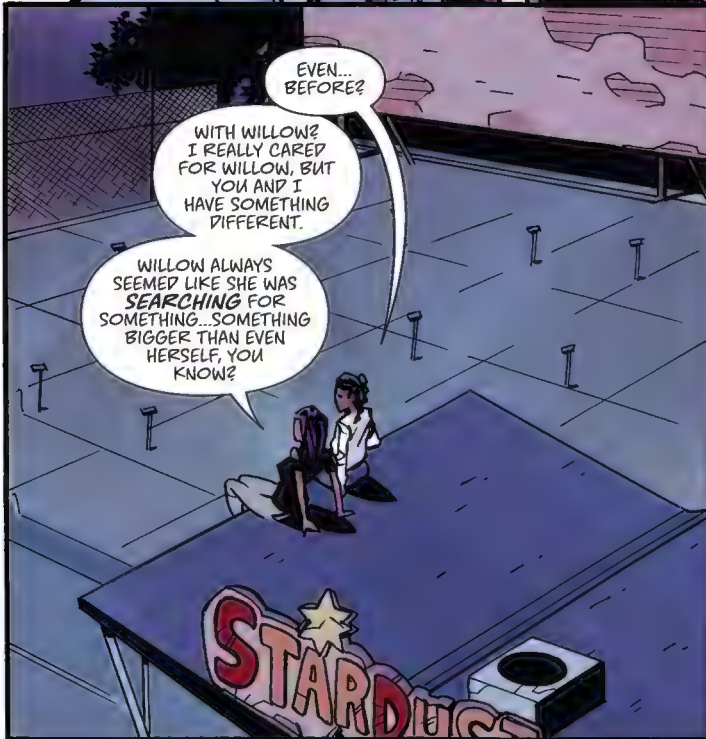


BUT WHAT IF I LIKE SUNNYPALE? WHAT IF I WANT TO STAY HERE? WITH YOU?

WHAT COUNTS IS THAT RIGHT NOW WE ARE TOGETHER.

I KNOW IT HASN'T BEEN VERY LONG, BUT I JUST FEEL SO HAPPY WHEN I'M WITH YOU. I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE.

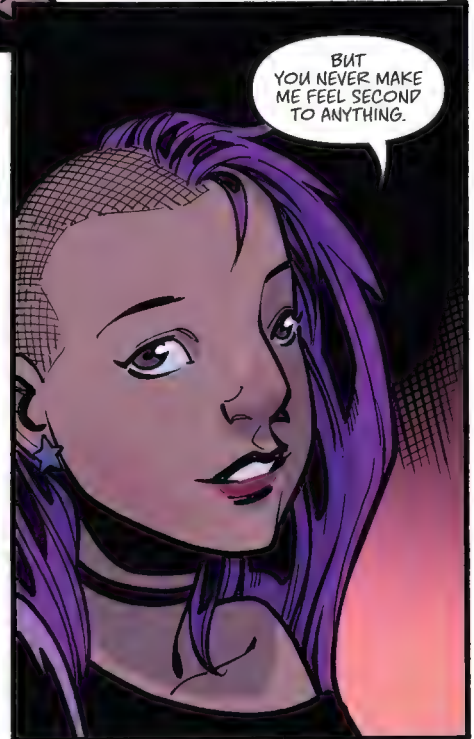
I GET IT. I FEEL THE SAME WAY.



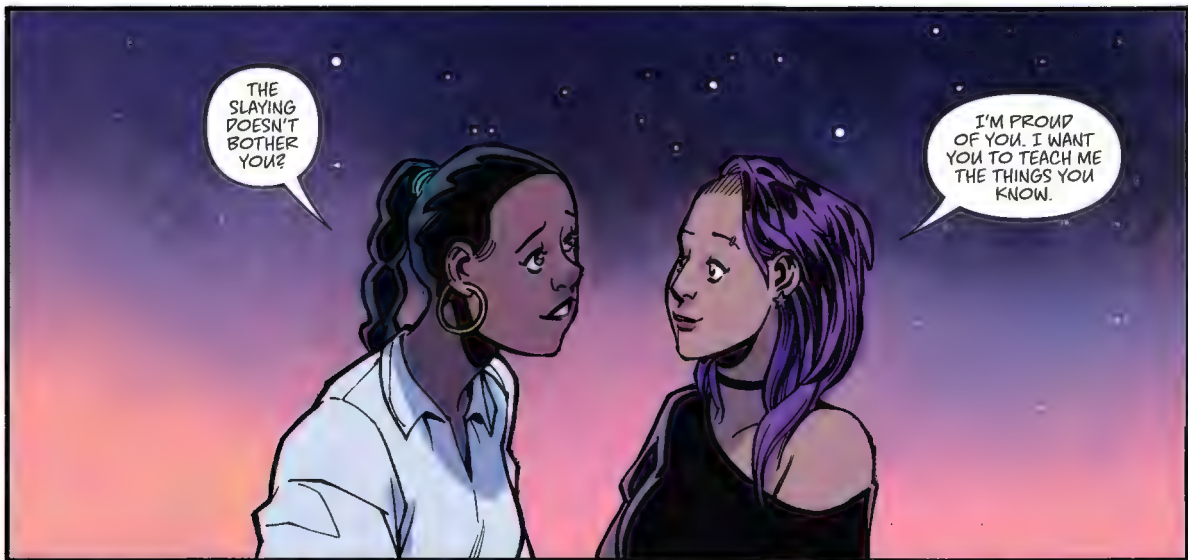
EVEN... BEFORE?

WITH WILLOW? I REALLY CARED FOR WILLOW, BUT YOU AND I HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

WILLOW ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS **SEARCHING** FOR SOMETHING...SOMETHING BIGGER THAN EVEN HERSELF, YOU KNOW?



BUT YOU NEVER MAKE ME FEEL SECOND TO ANYTHING.











KNOW ANY
GOOD PLACES
A GIRL CAN
GET A LITTLE
WILD?



CHAPTER

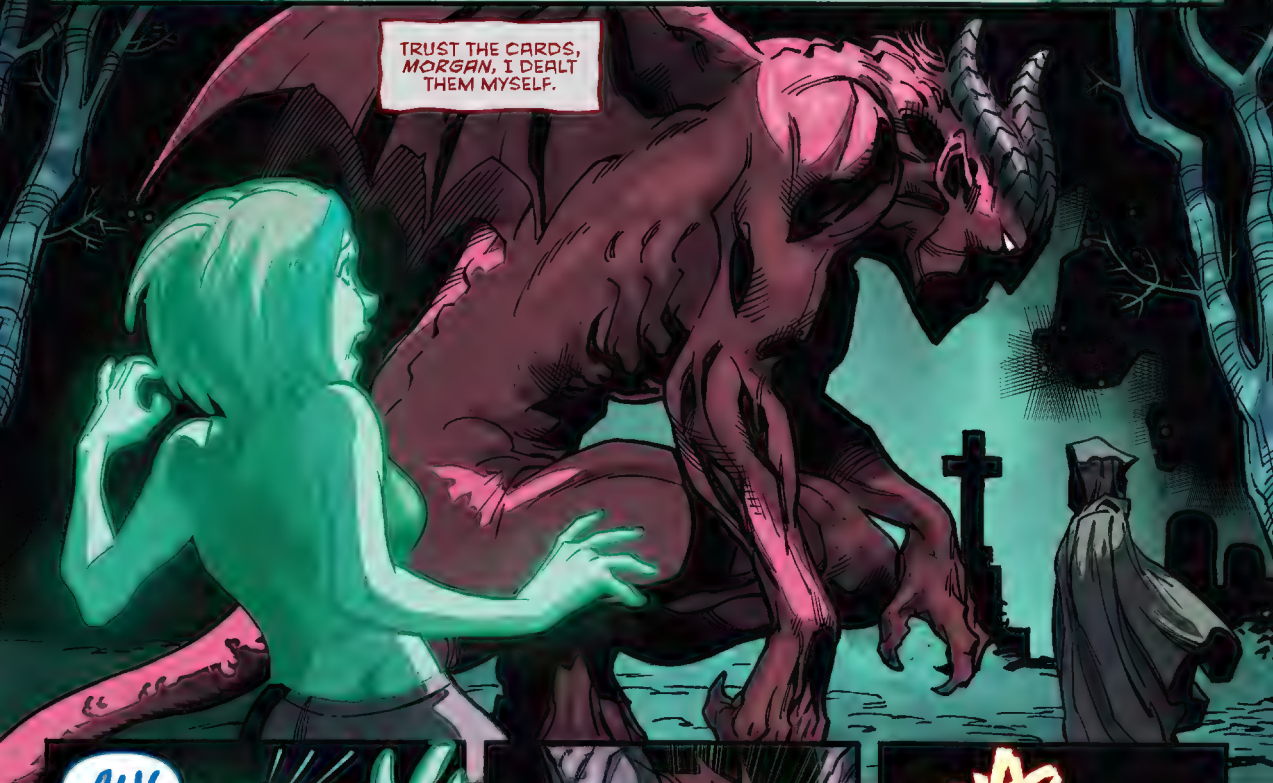
TWENTY

Issue Twenty Cover by **David López**





EVERYTHING
MOVES ALONG
AS IT SHOULD.



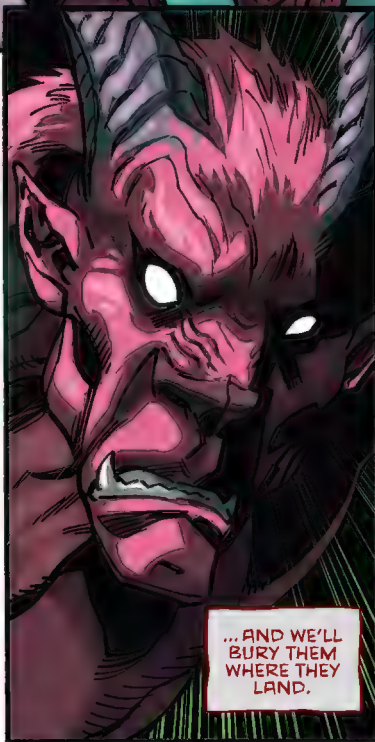
TRUST THE CARDS,
MORGAN, I DEALT
THEM MYSELF.



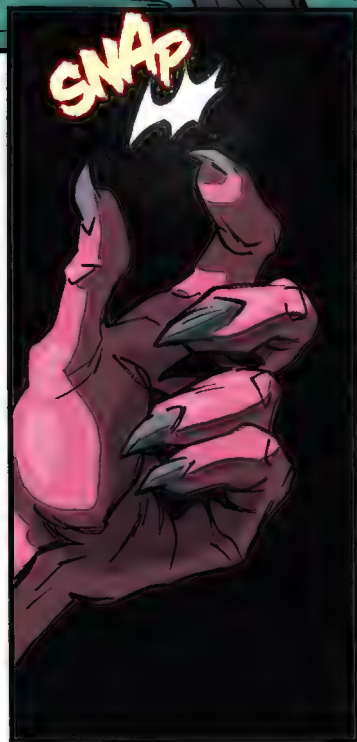
AH!

CRACK

THEY'LL
FALL...



... AND WE'LL
BURY THEM
WHERE THEY
LAND.



SNAP



UHG!

I'LL GET THE DUST PAN. YOU KNOW I HAVE A DOOR, RIGHT?



"OH, HELLO THERE WILLOW, NICE TO SEE YOU, DID YOU JUST APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR?"

EMPHASIS ON PRACTICE--

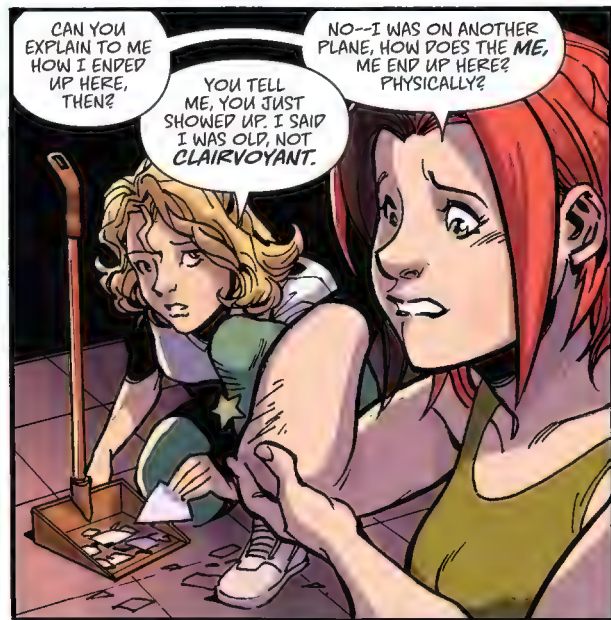
WHY WOULD I TAKE ISSUE WITH HOW YOU APPEAR, DON'T YOU PRACTICE MAGIC?



I'D SAY YOU'VE GOT A HANDLE, THIS SMOKE AND SPARKLE EVERYWHERE IS ONLY SOMETHING THAT COMES FROM THE ASTRAL PLANE...

I'M PRETTY OLD, I'VE SEEN A THING OR TWO.

YOU'VE HEARD OF IT, ANYAY?



CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO ME HOW I ENDED UP HERE, THEN?

NO--I WAS ON ANOTHER PLANE, HOW DOES THE ME, ME END UP HERE? PHYSICALLY?

YOU TELL ME, YOU JUST SHOWED UP. I SAID I WAS OLD, NOT CLAIRVOYANT.



BEATS ME. NEED SOMETHING?

UH--
I--ACTUALLY,
YEAH.



EXCELLENT! A **CUSTOMER!** MAYBE YOU FOUND YOURSELF SWIMMING THROUGH THE ASTRAL PLANE IN NEED OF SOMETHING EXPENSIVE!

NO, UHM, WELL--I'M NOT SURE. I NEED YOUR HELP DECIDING--



ON WHAT TO GET FOR YOUR DEAR FRIEND BUFFY? SHE WOULD BE **VERY** HAPPY WITH AN INVISIBILITY CLOAK OR PERHAPS A NEW CROSSBOW--MINE ARE MAGICAL Y'KNOW!

NO--
IT'S FOR XANDER.

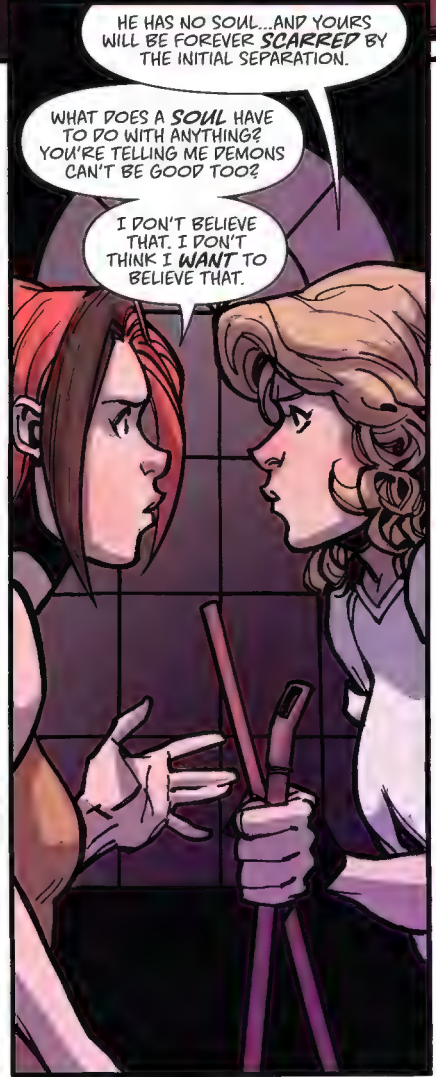


DIDN'T HE GO ALL--POINTY TEETH, KIDNAPPY, SCARY BOY?

YES BUT, I THINK HE'S STILL IN THERE, POINTY TEETH AND ALL.

WE WENT THROUGH ALL OF THIS BEFORE, HAVEN'T WE?

IT'S DIFFERENT. I JUST... KNOW.



HE HAS NO SOUL...AND YOURS WILL BE FOREVER **SCARRED** BY THE INITIAL SEPARATION.

WHAT DOES A **SOUL** HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING? YOU'RE TELLING ME DEMONS CAN'T BE GOOD TOO?

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT. I DON'T THINK I **WANT** TO BELIEVE THAT.





"...AND YOU'LL HAVE THINGS THE WAY THEY WERE MEANT TO BE."



HEY, YOU--SCARED GUY, YOU COOL?

M-ME?



YEAH, YOU! NAME'S FAITH--YOU ARE?

I'M... ROBIN. ARE YOU--ARE YOU A SLAYER?



HUH? WHAT ARE YOU--

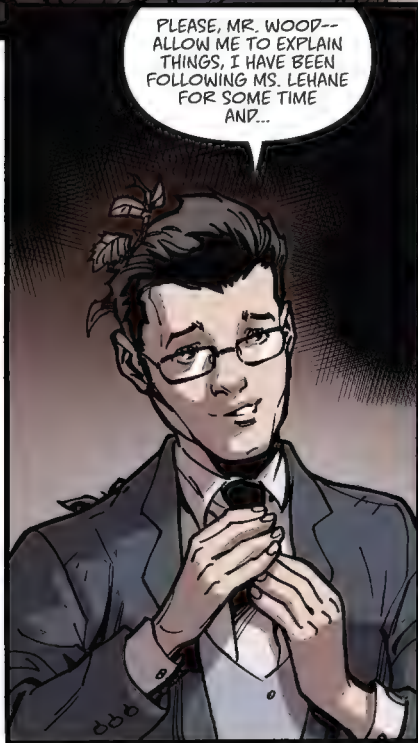
NO! NO! THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH! PLEASE, MR. WOOD! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF!

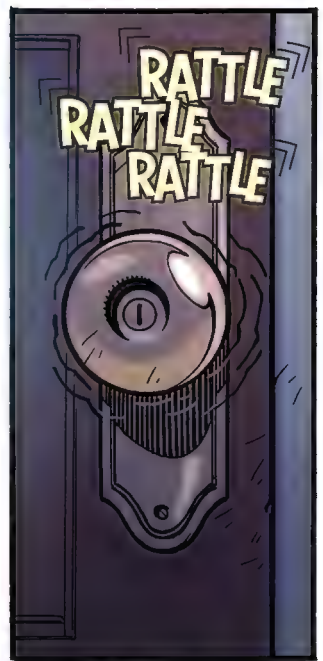


TALKING SHRUBS A NORMAL THING, HERE?

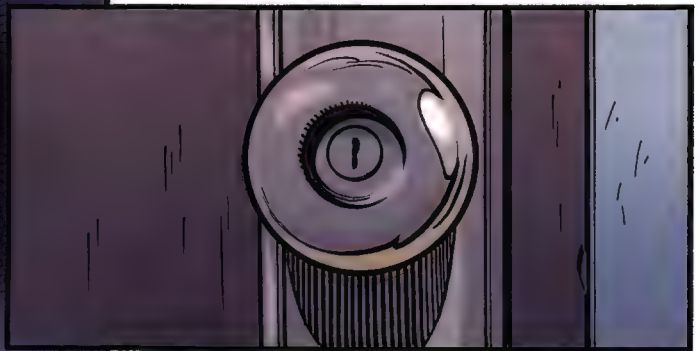
YOU'LL FIGURE OUT NOTHING IS EVER NORMAL ABOUT SUNNYSDALE.

HUFF! BLASTED THORNS, INVASIVE, SURELY!





I DO NOT
WANT TO USE DEADLY
FORCE, BUT I WARN
YOU--IF YOU BREAK INTO
THIS HOME, I AM LEFT WITH
NO CHOICE! STAY AWAY
FROM HERE!





I THOUGHT
IT WAS BETTER TO
SHOW YOU I COULD
GET THROUGH ON MY
OWN TERMS... RATHER
THAN ASKING FOR YOUR
PERMISSION, DIDN'T
WANT YOU THINKING I
WENT ALL--





WELL AT LEAST DOLLY LOOKS HAPPY. YOU...YOU KEPT HER SAFE. AND STILL HAVE MY THINGS. EVEN...EVEN AFTER...

WHAT WAS I TO DO, THROW DOLLY AND EVERY THING OF YOURS OUT ON THE STREET?

BUT I LEFT YOU.

YES, WELL, STILL, ER, GETTING OVER THAT, BUT IT'S NO REASON TO--



LOOK, I'M SORRY, I JUST--

ME TOO, BUT WE CAN'T--

JENNY--

AH! PLEASE, THEY'RE SORE...



WHAT DID THAT MONSTER DO TO YOU?

I'M GRATEFUL I HAVE MY LIFE. HE WAS STILL THE SAME INSECURE KID, ONLY NOW HE'S A KING OF A SAD KINGDOM.

YOU SOUND LIKE YOU PITY HIM. HE'S A DEMON, JENNY.



I THINK HE JUST WANTS HIS FRIENDS BACK.

DEMONS DO NOT HAVE FRIENDS. HE KIDNAPPED YOU, INJURED YOU, DESTROYED YOUR HOME, ATTACKED **BUFFY'S** HOME--HE SENT A CREATURE TO KILL KENDRA AND ROSE AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS!

I SINCERELY BELIEVE...IT'S ALL A DESPERATE CRY FOR ATTENTION. HE'S SO ALONE.



CRY FOR--THIS IS **STOCKHOLM SYNDROME**, JENNY, YOU'RE TRAUMATIZED, WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS--

I'M NOT STAYING.



FINE, YES, SURE--KENDRA IS ALREADY STAYING WITH ME, YOU'RE RIGHT--

NO, GILES. I'M LEAVING SUNNYDALE, I CAN'T BE A PAWN IN THESE GAMES... I DON'T HAVE THE HEART FOR IT.



JENNY, PLEASE--IF ANYTHING, SUNNYDALE IS THE **SAFEST** PLACE YOU COULD BE! WE'RE ALL HERE, TOGETHER! YOU CAN TRUST THAT NONE OF US WOULD EVER TURN OUR BACK ON YOU.



YOU CAN'T SPEAK FOR EVERYONE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

AND YOU HAVE **NO CLUE** WHO THEY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TO.



WILLOW MET WITH XANDER, I COULD HEAR HER VOICE--

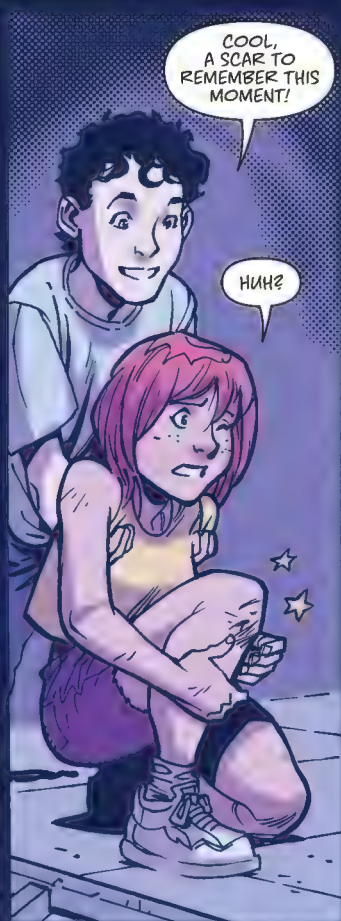
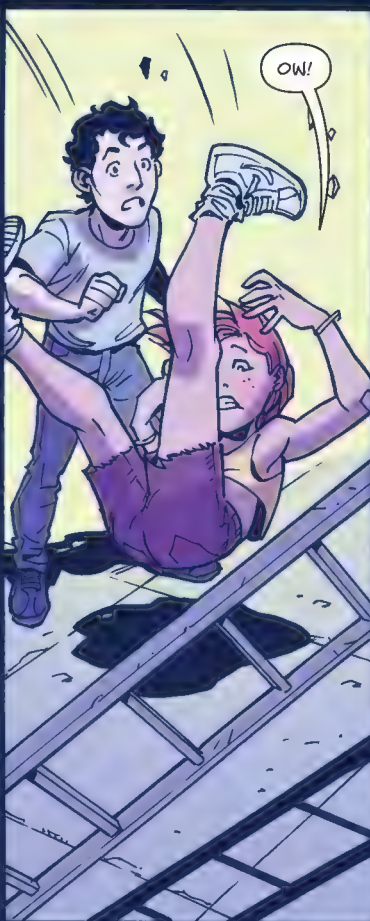
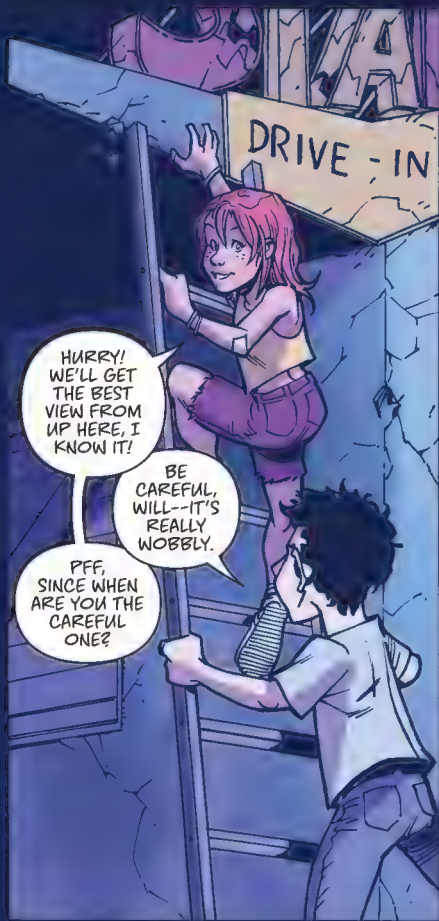
IMPOSSIBLE.

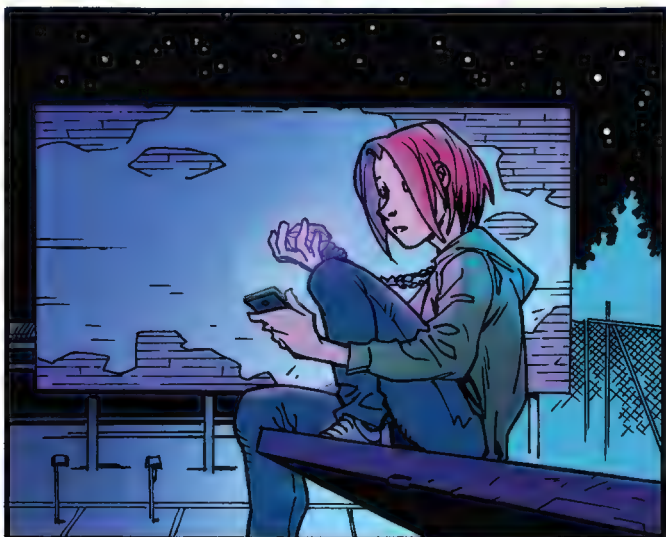
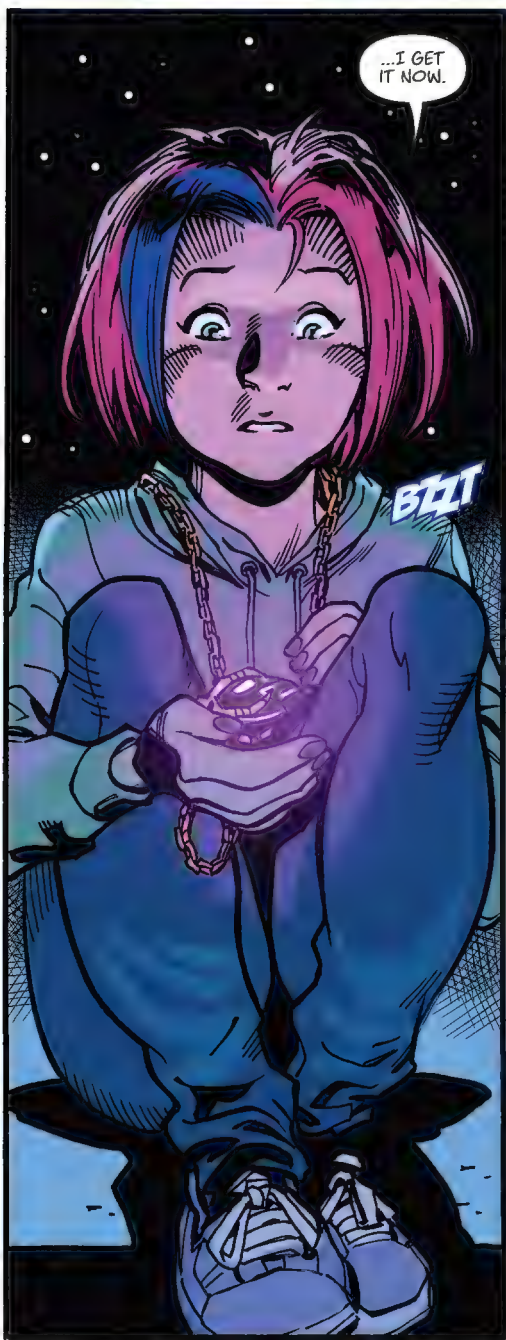
SHE CONVINCED XANDER TO LET ME GO.

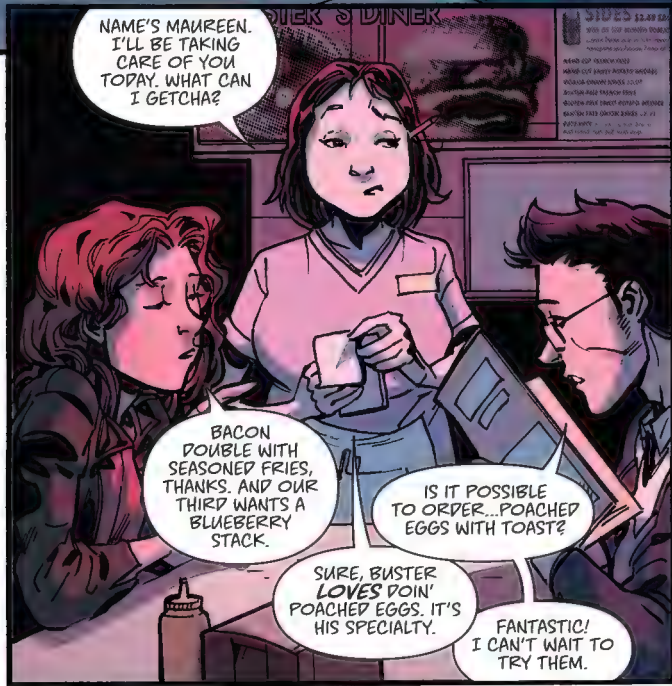
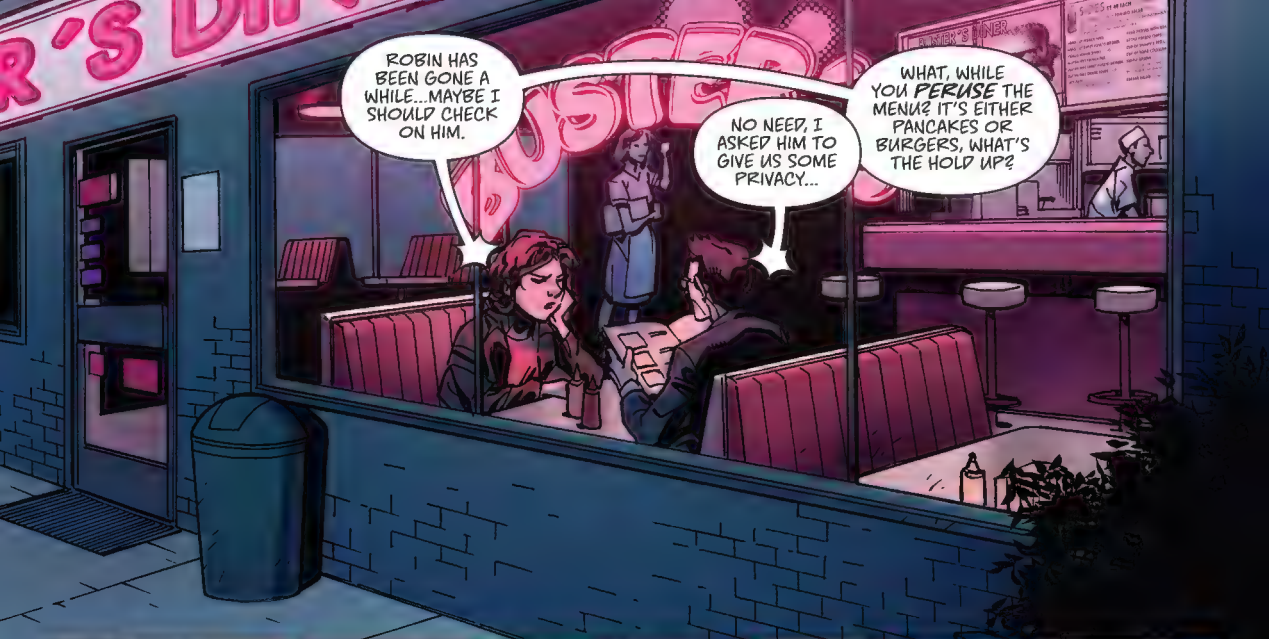
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

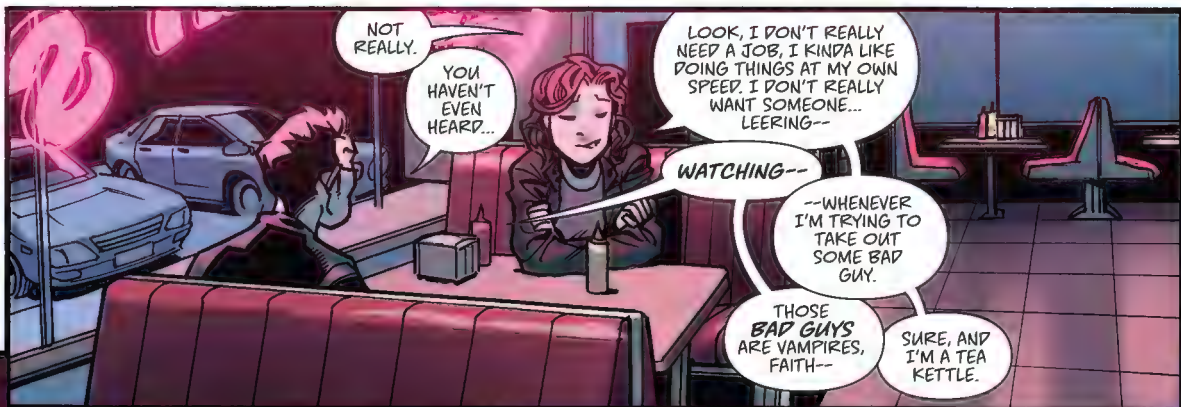
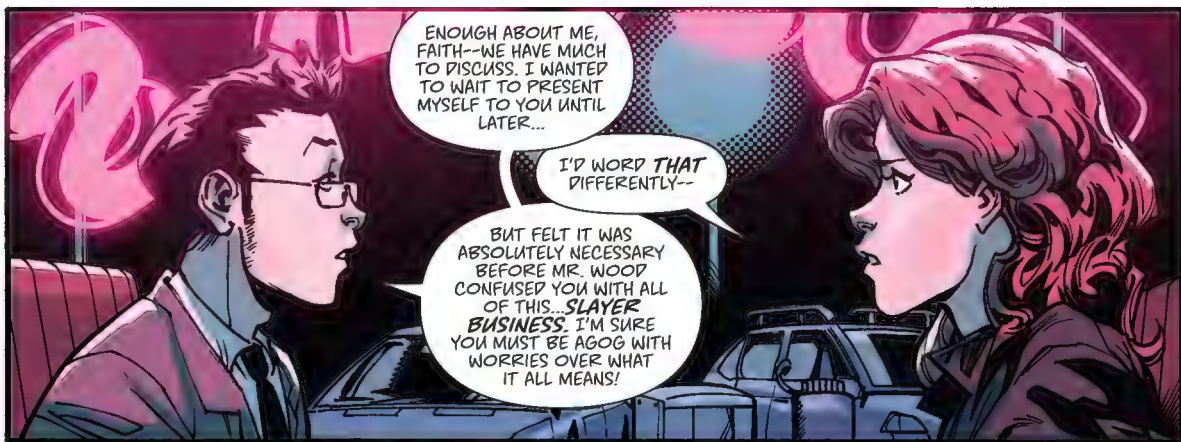
AS A SHOW OF GOOD FAITH...

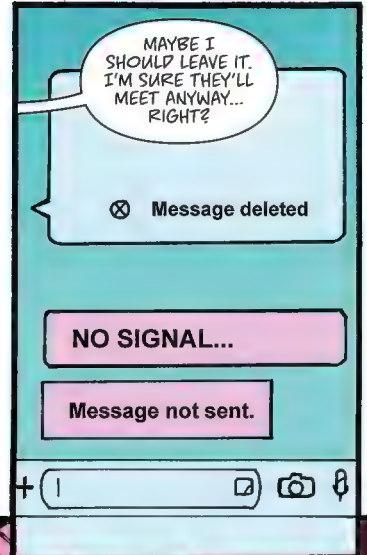
FOR WHAT?









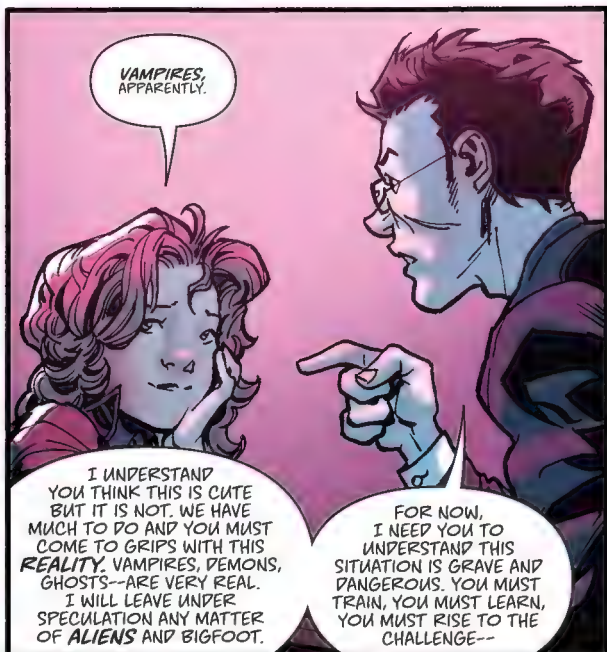




OH, PARDON, MISS, THESE EGGS AREN'T POACHED.

I THINK THAT'S HOW WE DO 'EM HERE IN AMERICA, FRIEND.

WHO WANTS TO EAT A FACE?



VAMPIRES, APPARENTLY.

I UNDERSTAND YOU THINK THIS IS CUTE BUT IT IS NOT. WE HAVE MUCH TO DO AND YOU MUST COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS **REALITY**. VAMPIRES, DEMONS, GHOSTS--ARE VERY REAL. I WILL LEAVE UNDER SPECULATION ANY MATTER OF **ALIENS** AND BIGFOOT.

FOR NOW, I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND THIS SITUATION IS GRAVE AND DANGEROUS. YOU MUST TRAIN, YOU MUST LEARN, YOU MUST RISE TO THE CHALLENGE--



SPEAKING OF CHALLENGES, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU FOLLOWED ME--FROM BOSTON?

ERM, YES--I WAS OBSERVING...



YOU MEAN **WATCHING**--WHAT ABOUT NEVADA? FIVE "VAMPIRES" VERSUS ME. WHERE WERE YOU?

I WAS... TAKING NOTES...

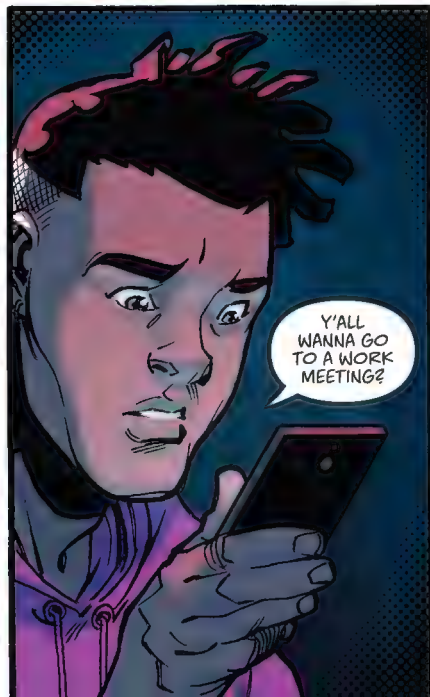


I COULD HAVE DIED.

I TRUST THAT YOU HAD IT UNDER CONTROL.

YEAH? WHAT IF I DIDN'T? HOW DO YOU IMPROVISE?

WOOP, SIGNAL'S BACK.



Y'ALL WANNA GO TO A WORK MEETING?



I'M JUST
RELIEVED
JENNY IS
OK.

YEAH, THAT'S
GREAT NEWS,
GILES.

YES--
BUT SHE
HAS DECIDED
TO LEAVE
SUNNYDALE...



I'M SURE IT WON'T BE
THE LAST TIME WE SEE
HER...FRIENDS HAVE A WAY
OF COMING BACK TO
US, DON'T THEY?



SO YOU CALLED US
IN HERE FOR GOOD
NEWS? THAT'S A FIRST.
MORE MEETINGS LIKE
THIS PLEASE.



UNFORTUNATELY...
WE HAVE ANOTHER
MATTER AT HAND--I
BELIEVE WE HAVE HAD A
BREACH OF TRUST
AS A GROUP.

THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND
RIGHT.

AGREED,
I THINK YOU
SHOULD GET YOUR
FACTS STRAIGHT,
MR. MAN.



WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU ALL
LOOKING AT ME?
ROSE DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING CLEVER
EITHER.

I'M DATING
A SLAYER, WHY
WOULD I BETRAY
HER TRUST?



WELL, WITH THAT KINDA LOGIC, I'M **BEST FRIENDS** WITH A SLAYER--WHY WOULD I BETRAY HER TRUST?



PERHAPS... WILLLOW, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO REMEMBER YOU HAVE **ANOTHER** FRIEND...ONE WHO MEANS QUITE A LOT TO YOU.



WILLOW? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT, BUFFY.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING LAST NIGHT AT YOUR HOUSE? WITH ALL OF THOSE CANDLES? WITH ROSE?



YOU WERE AT **WILLOW'S** HOUSE LAST NIGHT? YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD HOMEWORK.

I DID HAVE HOMEWORK BUT THEN SHE CALLED--I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU, IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS.

SEE? JUST LIKE SHE SAID, IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS.

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE TRYING TO FIND **JENNY**, THAT'S PRETTY SERIOUS.



AND I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T FIND HER.

YES--BUT YOU *DID* FIND SOMEONE, DIDN'T YOU?



WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE YOU ALL ACCUSING ME OF? YOU GAVE ME THE STUPID SPELL BOOK, GILES. I WAS TRYING TO BE HELPFUL.

AND WHO ARE YOU HELPING EXACTLY?

YOU! I GOT JENNY OUT, DIDN'T I?!

WILLOW, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT AMULET?



THIS? I BOUGHT IT LAST SUMMER.

THAT'S NOT TRUE, WE SPENT EVERY DAY TOGETHER LAST SUMMER. I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.

SHUT UP, ROSE!

DON'T TELL HER TO SHUT UP. JUST ANSWER GILES! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT!



WOULD ALL OF YOU JUST LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!!

ERM. SORRY TO DISTURB ALL OF YOU...I FEEL LIKE WE MAY HAVE COME AT A BAD TIME?



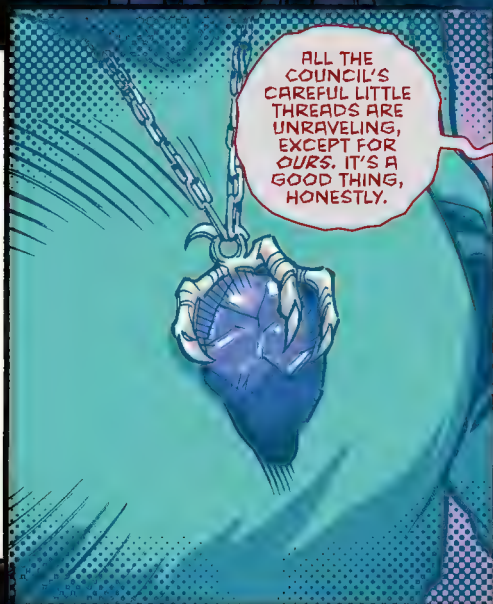
WE
JUST WANTED
TO INTRODUCE
OURSELVES...ERM--
SHOULD WE COME
BACK LATER?

EXIT



AND WHO,
PRAY TELL,
ARE YOU?

GREAT.
SO...THERE'S
THREE OF
THEM NOW.



ALL THE
COUNCIL'S
CAREFUL LITTLE
THREADS ARE
UNRAVELING,
EXCEPT FOR
OURS. IT'S A
GOOD THING,
HONESTLY.



STILL
DON'T GET WHY
I CAN'T JUST ASK
YOU TO GET RID OF
THE COUNCIL IN
ONE FELL
SWOOP.



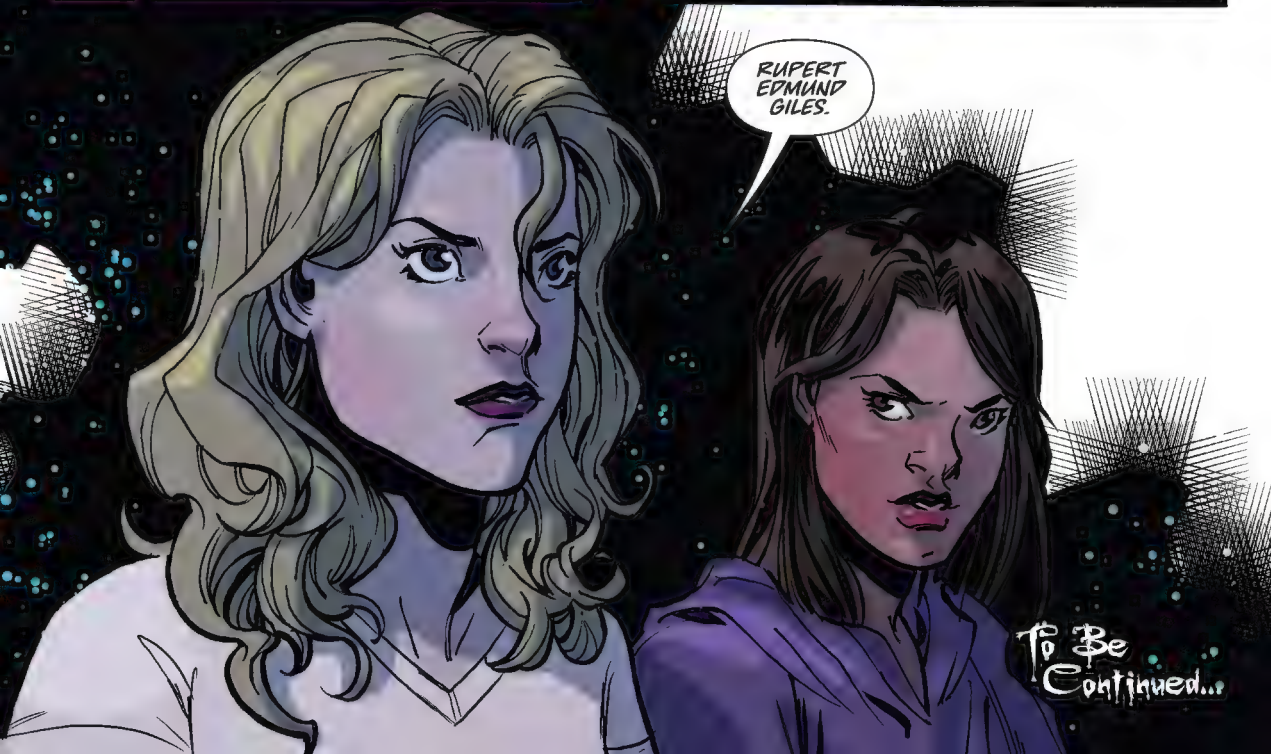
I'VE SEEN
WHAT THAT'S
LIKE, TRUST ME,
YOU WOULDN'T
EVEN HAVE A
FUTURE.

DETAILS,
MORGAN. IT'S ALL
IN THE DETAILS. IF WE
WANT TO MAKE SURE IT
NEVER HAPPENS
AGAIN...WE NEED TO BE
METICULOUS. DETAILS
TAKE TIME.

YEAH, AND
I'VE FINALLY GOT MY
TIME BACK. THIS IS HARD
ENOUGH AS IT IS, EVEN
WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS
JUST ONE OF THEM. NO
POINT IN ME DOING ALL
THIS IF SOMETHING
HAPPENS TO ANY OF
THEM WHILE WE'RE
PONTIFICATING.



SO LET'S
END THIS WHILE
THEIR EYES ARE
ELSEWHERE.



**BUFFY THE
VAMPIRE
SLAYER #20**



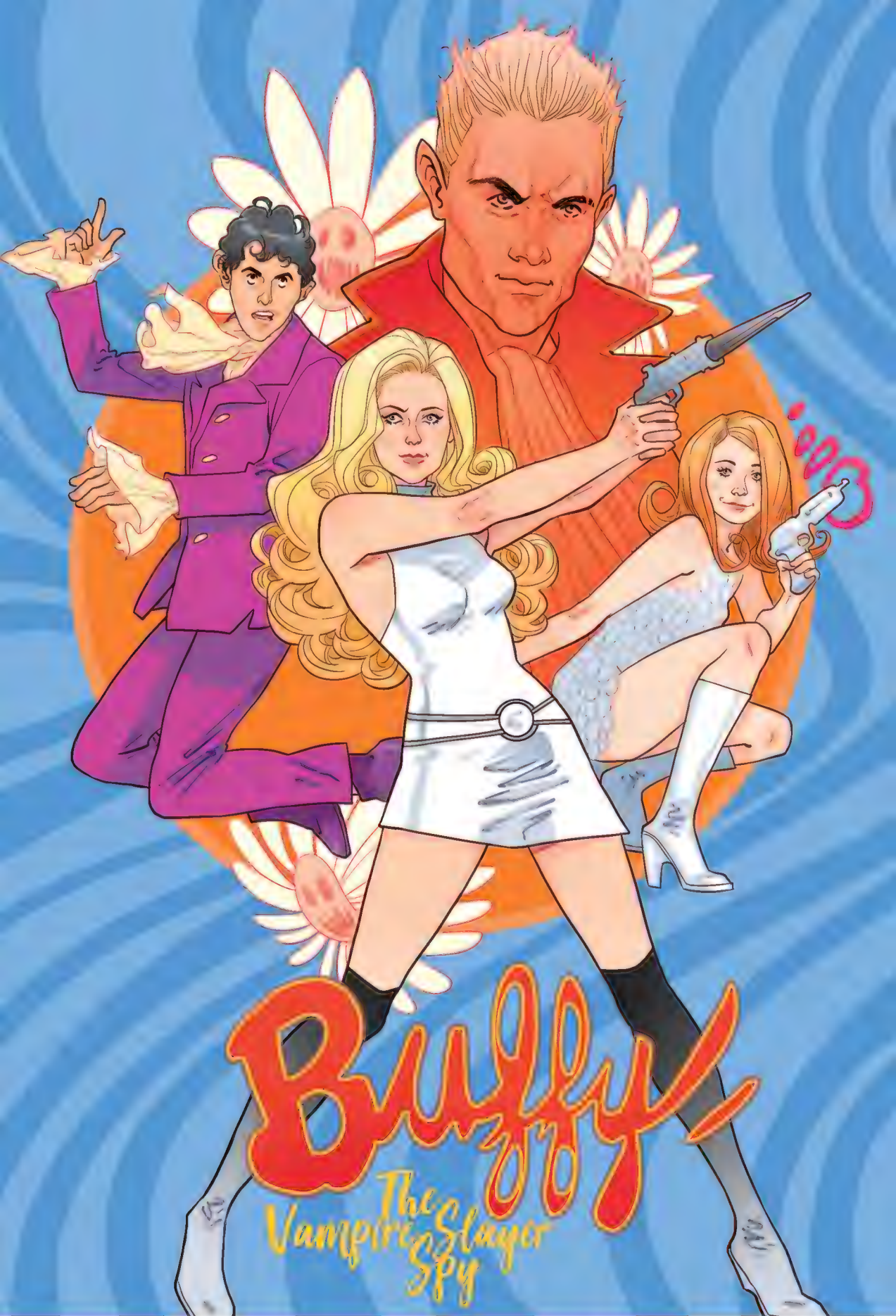
COVER GALLERY

LMK



SHS

29







Issue Nineteen Multiverse Cover by **Marguerite Sauvage**



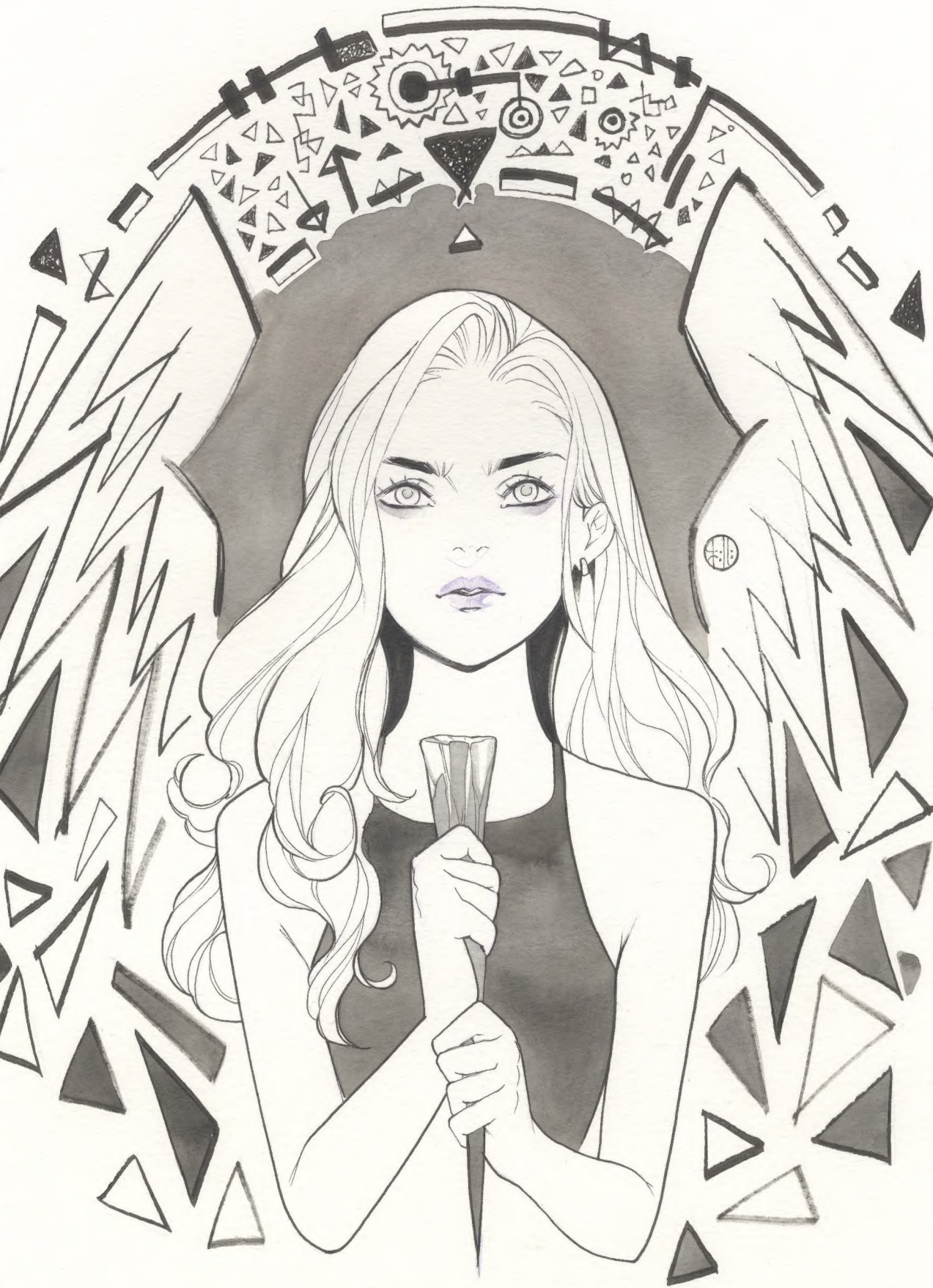
Issue Twenty Multiverse Cover by Marguerite Sauvage



Issue Seventeen Incentive Cover by **David López**



Issue Eighteen Incentive Cover by **David López**





Issue Twenty Incentive Cover by **David López**

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS?

Willow has returned to Sunnydale with a secret about Buffy and the Scooby Gang that'll change everything that they knew! There's just one problem—Willow can't share this secret just yet.

But a countdown may have started on Buffy's time as a Slayer, as the rotten truth about the Watcher's Council that binds Robin, Giles and the Slayer Before will be revealed...starting with a young Watcher named Wesley.

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